



PARENTS

THE POWER CORD OF

VOCATION

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Being the Director of catechesis for twelve years in the diocese of Palakkad, India, I had many occasions to collaborate with people enlightened and experienced in this ministry. The frequent complaint from these zealous co-workers and even from the authorities had to do with the ineffectiveness of catechesis. This did become a hot topic for discussion. It inspired me to look into myself and gratefully recognise the faith formation I received from my simple parents. This encouraged focus on effective family catechesis of parents. Thank God, the result was amazing. 'Parents are the primary educators in faith' (GDC 255). All others can only add to the basic faith and values bestowed by the parents. Hence, I humbly acknowledge the truth that my faith life during childhood and ensuing vocation to priesthood were willy-nilly dependent on the faith of my parents.

Parents are the 'power cord' of vocation. As we know, a power cord is the connecting link between the appliance and the source of electricity.

I STRONGLY BELIEVE, DESPITE THE LACK OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MY PARENTS WERE EFFICIENT CHANNELS FOR TRANSMITTING THE PLANS AND BLESSINGS OF GOD.

Proper connectivity to the source of energy is indispensable for the successful functioning, no matter how good the appliance is. From my 30 years of priestly experience and 6 years of episcopal ministering, I admit that my parents were the exceptionally powerful 'power cord' of my vocation. Had I not been properly connected to God, the source of all divine grace, through my parents, I would not have been spiritually energised to become a priest and later a bishop.

I strongly believe, despite the lack of higher education, my parents were efficient channels for transmitting the plans and blessings of God. St Paul reminds us, *If the root is holy, then the branches also are holy* (Romans 11:16). Their virtuous life of prayer, fasting, mortification, patience, attentiveness to God's plan, love and concern for priests, involvement in Church activities, thirst for the salvation of souls, motivation to live for Christ and his Church, etc. were true inspiration to embrace the vocation to priesthood.

So, let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up (Galatians 6:9).

Homage to all beloved parents!