

GOD'S FINANCIAL FACTS

For too long we've allowed a wall to separate our faith lives from our money. It's time we break down that barrier and move forward on the journey to true financial freedom: freedom from debt, learning to be generous, and knowing how to set godly priorities, which includes saving for the important things in life.

The first financial fact to teach your children is that all we have comes from God and therefore he is sovereign over all things — including our money.

The *Catechism* tells us that ownership of any property makes its holder a “Steward of Providence,” with the task of making it fruitful and communicating its benefits to others, first of all our families.

When we recognize that God is sovereign over all that we have and accept the role of steward, we find that our attitude toward money changes. Instead of the self-seeking attitude, so prevalent in our society, that leads many people into financial and spiritual straits, we use the gifts we have

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been given for the well-being of our family, those close to us, and for the greater good of mankind. And this is precisely the message we want to give our children.

The second financial fact is that God is our Father and provider. In the Sermon on the Mount, Our Lord says, “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.” (Matthew 6:31–33).

The key phrase to emphasize with your children is “heavenly



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Father.” Just as you love and care and provide for your children here on earth, they also have a Father in heaven who loves them so much that He gave His only Son for their redemption. Teaching your children to trust completely in God's love may be the greatest gift you can ever give them, because when times get tough, financially or otherwise, they will have the assurance that God will always take care of them, as long as they put Him first in their lives.

Financial Freedom and Our Kids



Financial bondage occurs when our children fail to learn the important values that our faith imparts about the importance of being a good steward, and they find themselves making financial mistakes in their early adult years that can take a lifetime to resolve.

We help our children achieve financial freedom by teaching them to apply godly principles to financial affairs. These principles are found in the Bible — God's love letter to us — and the teaching of our Catholic faith. By teaching these principles to your children, you'll ensure they can build healthy marriages, live debt-free, and experience the joy that comes only from generosity.