

# FORGIVENESS

The role of parents in teaching their children about reconciliation is a continuing process in all loving families.

Parents, consciously and unconsciously, are instilling in their children a hierarchy of values, a sense of right and wrong, and understanding of the words “sorry,” “apology,” and forgiveness.” All of these concepts are fundamental in preparing for everyday life in our families and communities.

Teachers cannot replace parents as guides in this all-important development. In fact, it is impossible to teach a child what “sorrow” really means if a child has never been forgiven. It is also difficult for a child to learn how to apologize if that child has never witnessed an apology situation between his or her parents.

Moral codes are communicated very effectively in the home. Honesty, fairness, kindness, generosity, and integrity are lessons taught during faith formation classes but are caught at home through Christian family living.

## Points to Ponder....

How are we teaching our children the meaning of “I’m sorry”?

- As magic words that get people out of trouble by simply saying them?
- As a way of showing what polite children you have?
- As an automatic tape to be played when something happens
- As a response to a stimulus? (along with “Thank you” and “Excuse me.”)
- As an expression having some meaning that they have to think about? (If one is sorry, one changes behavior, does something about the action, makes resolutions, etc.)