

The Necessity of Home Schooling
By FR. John Hardon, S.J.

Catholic home schooling is the planned and organized teaching and training of children at home, for their peaceful and effective life in this world, and for their eternal salvation in the world to come.

I distinguish teaching from training, for I say that teaching addresses itself mainly to the mind, and training to the will; indeed, the training of the mind is in order to motivate the will.

We get our principles for authentic Catholic home schooling from Christ's closing directive to His apostles: "To teach all nations" - that's the mind - "to observe all that I have commanded you" - that's the will.

Home schooling in the United States is the necessary concomitant of a culture in which the Church is being opposed on every level of her existence and, as a consequence, giving the widespread secularization in our country, home schooling is not only valuable or useful, but it is absolutely necessary for the survival of the Catholic Church in our country.

Home schooling in our country is that form of teaching and training of children at home in order to preserve the Catholic faith in the family, and to preserve the Catholic faith in our country. ...

Home schooling has been necessary in the Catholic Church since her foundation. The necessity, therefore, is not the necessity that is the result of an emergency. No, Catholic home schooling is necessary, period.

And one reason is that it was so widely neglected before. So many parents practically abdicated their own obligation to teach their own children, and then found out, sadly, their children were not being given a Catholic education.

How do we know that home schooling is necessary? First, we know it from divine revelation. The early Church is normative, not only on what we should believe as Catholics, but on how we ought to learn our faith, and live it.

There were not established Catholic schools in the Roman Empire back in the first 300 years of the Church's history. Except for parents becoming, believing, and being heroic Catholics in the early Church, nothing would have happened. The Church would have died out before the end of the first century.