

question is not hard to answer. He knows that the careless home-training many Catholics received a generation ago is in great measure responsible for much religious indifference among Catholics to-day. The General Intention on religious education in the home circle recommended to associates for the present month, is one that parents and others who have the domestic care of children would do well to read and ponder over.

Religious training should play a more important part in Catholic home life than some people care to admit. A child cannot be taught too soon that it comes from God ; that it belongs to God ; that it is destined for God ; that it is bound to serve God with all the powers of body and soul. To bring up a child after a Catholic ideal is to thoroughly impregnate its thoughts, aspirations, words, actions, with religion and religious sanctions in order that its will may not bend to evil. The fact that there is a God " in whom we live, and move, and have our being " is, in itself, enough to justify the anxiety of the Catholic Church and conscientious parents concerning the bringing up of children.

After all, the end of education is to help us to reach heaven. We were created and put in this world to work out our salvation, and our whole life, helped by God's grace, should be given up to that work. All else is vanity ; if our souls are lost, all is lost. Only religious training, religious surroundings from the dawn of reason up to maturity, will keep us in the right path. Children should consequently be brought up under religious influences ; the very air they breathe should savor of religion. This may seem a difficult programme to carry out ; but the obligation exists, and parents must make the best of it.

During the first years of a child's life, parents are practically its only teachers. Good counsel and good example must needs be given by them in order to make salutary impressions on its tender mind. If this does not suffice, there is nothing to prevent parents from supplementing