

Practice Economy in your Expenditure.

Those parents, then, are guilty, who through their wasteful and improvident habits, do not keep their expenses in proper proportion to their earnings, so as to be able to lay something by for a rainy day. Those parents are guilty who neglect their work and thereby make their families suffer. But much more guilty are those who spend what they earn in foolish or in sinful amusement, and, instead of supporting their families, burden them with debt.

This means, of course, that parents must lead a life of sacrifice for the sake of their children, and must deny themselves a great many things which it would be lawful for them to have if they were unmarried. But when they were getting married they knew the obligations which they were assuming; they undertook the burden willingly; and now they should cheerfully bear it.

All this has reference merely to the bodily education of your children, the education which will fit them for the position they are to fill in this life.

The Choice of a State of Life,

however, must be made by themselves. You may advise them; and it is their duty to listen to your advice with all respect. But you have no authority to tell them, for instance, that they must get married, or remain single; that they must or must not enter the priesthood or the convent. If you tell them this they are not bound to obey you. When they enter into a certain state of life, it is they, not you, who will have to bear the burdens of that state; therefore, it is they, not you, who must choose the state whose burdens they have to bear.

You have no right to command in this matter.