

the Church during the first five years of the child cannot exert her care directly over it, so that the life of grace implanted through baptism must remain without nourishment unless the parents—unless father and mother watching over the seedlings of grace implanted by holy baptism in the heart of the child, foster by piety, precept and prayer the tender buds of faith and love that later will bear beautiful blossoms in the full summertide of the garden of life.

Father Becker, the well-known Jesuit writer, in his admirable work, "Christian Education," likens the soul of a child after baptism to the bud of a sunflower, and he asks what is necessary that this bud be developed to the full splendor of blossom? Nothing, Father Becker answers, except that parents, especially the mother, direct this bud again and again to the light and warmth of religion. If she does not understand this, then the