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sickness, sorrow and calamity are equally in the power of His will. And if there be one crime more sure than another to provoke the wrath of God upon whole families, it is that of parents who withhold from their children the knowledge of God and His law, and the nourishment of virtue, leaving them to nature and its passions of corruption, to gradually enslave them and exact the life-long service of their hearts and minds, which should be rendered to the Almighty Lord alone—their Creator and Redeemer. "I am the Lord, thy God," said He, "mighty, jealous, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation" (Exodus 20th chap.) It is difficult to conceive how Catholic fathers and mothers, believing in the Church's doctrine about the priceless value of souls and the glorious inheritance prepared for the children of grace on condition of their perseverance in virtue, can hope to die in God's peace and meet a favorable judgment after having reared their offspring in ignorance of the truths of salvation and neglect of prayer and mass and sacraments and observance of Christian virtue, by which alone they can reach heaven. The Apostle St. Paul discredits the faith of such parents; he classes them with apostates and pronounces them more guilty than infidels. To the Bishop of Ephesus he writes, "If any man hath not a care of his own, and especially of those of his house, he hath denied the faith and is worse than an infidel" (1 Tim. 5th chap.)

Priestly Care of the Young.

When the pastor has admonished the parents of their obligations, his whole duty to the little ones is not thereby discharged. The church has received from Christ a direct and special guardianship of children. It is she who brought them forth to the life of the spirit in grace through the sacrament of baptism. Hers is a better and nobler maternity than that of flesh and blood. She is now their nursing-mother according to the spirit, for their rearing in the divine life of faith and grace "unto the perfect man, unto the measure of the age of the fulness of Christ" (Eph.