

## **Sharing Faith With Children Never Stops**

*Deacon Tim Sullivan*

One of my favorite passages in the Bible about parenting is in the Book of Deuteronomy. In Chapter 11, God tells Moses: “Take these words of mine into your heart and soul...Teach them to your children, speaking of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. And write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates, so that, as long as the heavens are above the earth, you and your children may live on in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers he would give them.”

That’s our primary responsibility as parents. We are to instruct our children on knowing, loving and serving the Lord. And this obligation never ends.

One of the highlights of my life was when my younger son, Tim, Jr., then in college, asked me one Sunday morning while visiting at home, “How can I get more out of Communion?” My oldest son, Dan, was also in town, so since they were both of age, I took them to McNellie’s Irish Pub.

For almost two hours, we talked about the Eucharist and the dynamics of the Mass. I explained how we participate in the sacrifice of Jesus by putting our lives on the altar in the form of the bread and wine. The priest asks the Holy Spirit to come down on these gifts and make them into the body and blood of Jesus. So we become united with Jesus in uniting the sacrifices of our lives with His sacrifice and offering it to the Father. The result of this is an infusion of grace into our souls that transforms us, helping us be less selfish and more generous in serving the Lord.

“Lord, help me take advantage of opportunities for sharing my Catholic faith with my children. Show me what to do and what to say.”