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PASTOR

My dear Kirkland Catholics,

I will not often rehash homilies in my newsletter, but my homily at HFK a few weeks back had a lot of specific examples, and was asked more than once for a copy of the examples. So here we go...

I based my homily on Matthew 10:10-16: “*Whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.*” My point was that entering the Kingdom of God actually happens when we are baptized; and we are supposed to *more and more* enter into the Kingdom throughout life, as we become more childlike.

I compared a “childlike” approach to life to “sophisticated adult” approach, and I titled my homily “*A five-year-old is not going to give you ‘The Silent Treatment’.*” Here are some examples I used:

Childlike	Adult (but childish)
Do not “put on airs”	Pretend, front, masquerade
Unabashedly affectionate	Aloof, cool
Simple & Straightforward	Manipulative & scheming
Life is uncomplicated	Life is convoluted & tangled priorities
Forget wrongs quickly	Nursing resentment, giving “The Silent Treatment”
Chaste	Lustful and objectifying others
Live in the moment	Living in past, or fearful & anxious about future
Vulnerable & Transparent	Fail to deal w/ trauma (fail to go to therapy when needed), suppress pain & emotion
Curious	Apathetic & disinterested
Ask for help	Vainly self-sufficient
Willing to believe	Cynical & incredulous
Know they need friends	Isolate
Humble: I need my parents (God) for everything, and I am secure in their (the Lord’s) love.	Prideful: I am insecure in the Lord’s love, and so I must rely on my own counsel and strength for my happiness and security.

Being childlike begins with believing one is a beloved child of God, and internalizing that we need God for everything. It develops as we adopt a “we” mindset rather than a “me” mindset: instead of thinking “what am *I* going to do about X?” it is asking “Lord, what are **we** going to do about X.” It is also nurtured by striving to live in the moment (rather than in the past or future) because it is *only* in the present that I experience the love and grace of God. A final point of development occurs by realizing when we act like a “sophisticated adult,” then repenting and asking God for more humility.

With love in Christ,

Fr. Brad