



VERMILION CATHOLIC
a legacy of Mount Carmel

Parents,

May 31, 2025

A blessed summer to you all! It's been a great year for the school and I've certainly enjoyed my first year as your pastor. Now that summer is upon us, I'd like to offer one last Pastor's message. Although your children aren't being formally "educated" in a school setting during the summer, I urge you to continue their training in *wisdom*. Certainly, children should enjoy the extra freedom that comes from not attending school, but without any structure at all, they risk making themselves more miserable rather than genuinely happy (us too!). St. James tells us that "wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace" (James 3:17-18). The book of Wisdom shows King Solomon saying that wisdom "is an unfailing treasure; those who gain this treasure win the friendship of God, being commended by the gifts that come from her discipline" (Wisdom 7:14). The "her" in that line is wisdom. King Solomon personifies wisdom as a woman who serves God. That emphasis on discipline is important. Every family will have their different circumstances and some of you are quite busy, but I urge each of you to develop some basic rules of discipline for your children this summer.

To help with that, here's five areas I suggest you include:

1. Prayer: without a school to *make* your children every day, it's crucial that they are asked to hold themselves to a daily prayer routine of some kind.
2. Creativity: with a culture super-saturated by pre-made entertainment, it's too easy for children to lose their natural creativity. Please encourage your children to do something creative every day, something they make just for the sake of making it: Building something, making music, creating art, etc.
3. Service: try to have your children do at least one act of service every day, preferably something other than the standard household chores. Helping other people sometimes comes naturally to us, but the real growth is when it becomes a habit, when it becomes second nature because we so consistently make ourselves do it. This is the "mercy and good fruits" St. James speaks about.
4. Physical Activity: I love video games and movies and I know many kids do too. But I also know that if I don't stay physically active, even my favorite games and shows won't keep me happy. Please set a standard for your children to do some strenuous physical activity or exercise every day.
5. Learning: Can we ask our children to learn something every day? Read an article, listen to a podcast, watch a documentary, or even spend time asking parents and siblings questions about important topics. Our minds, like our stomachs, need food daily.

May your summer be fun, free from disaster, and full of great memories! May it also, with the help of the Holy Spirit, be a time to grow in wisdom.

In Christ,

Father Alexander M. Albert,
Pastor, Vermilion Catholic, a legacy of Mount Carmel
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Lagniappe: [The Wingfeather Saga](#) is a great book and series. You can watch [episode 1 for free here](#).

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