

## The Arena or the Church

Pope Francis writes on the education as an attitude and a way of being. This attitude and way of being is particularly apropos given the secularization of our contemporary culture. *The Holy Father tells us that “Educating is not a profession but an attitude, a way of being...we step out of ourselves and accompany young people in their stages of growth. Give them hope and optimism for their faith journey into the world. Teach them to see the beauty and goodness of creation and humanity that retains the Creator’s hallmark. You pass on knowledge and values with your words, but this needs be accompanied by your witness...may school be a place of encounter and convergence of the entire educating community.”*

It is extremely distressing when parents of our Catholic children promote and support a total disregard for the obligation of attending Mass on Sundays.

I would hope that all our parents will take the time to reassess fundamental priorities that identify Catholic families and a Catholic way of life with a degree of conviction.

When the Arena replaces the Church as the temple; when the fast food restaurant replaces the Eucharistic table for nourishment; when the bleachers replace the pews; and the swimming pool replaces the baptismal font; then the secularization of our children who have been entrusted to us by God for their growth and development in body, mind and spirit – sadly becomes the reality of our lives and our children.

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