

Passing on Our Beliefs

Greetings and Easter Joy!

In this season of resurrection, we are filled with the joy of our faith in the risen Christ. Who passed on this faith to you? Were you influenced by someone who had a special relationship with both the Lord and the Catholic tradition? In my case, I think of my grandmothers: faithful, prayerful women who—through joys and heartbreaks—were anchored by a deep faith in God’s presence and God’s promise.

My grandmothers prayed visibly. . . . They loved the Lord and were not afraid to show it.

Our bishops remind us that, as parents, we are the primary catechists of our children: “While the catechesis offered within the family is ordinarily informal, unstructured, and spontaneous,



it is no less crucial for the development of the child’s faith.” So true! And actually, not that imposing! What they are speaking of is a simple, gentle thing.

The Greek root of the word *catechist* means “to echo.” We live our lives, and we connect them to what’s gone before us—we echo.

We draw connections between the Gospel and what’s happening in life. We celebrate our holy feasts in our sanctuaries and our homes. We mark the chapters of our lives through the sacraments. We say the prayers. We support others through generosity and action. We work for justice in our families and our communities. In doing these things, we echo the faith that has gone before us.

My grandmothers prayed visibly. They were hospitable. They were prodigies of service. They made the sacraments a priority in their lives and ours. They loved the Lord and were not afraid to show it. What a beautiful echo they resounded! I hope I can somehow do the same.