Every time I hear the words “Family” and “Tradition” I am transported into the world of Tevye and his family from the musical “Fiddler on the Roof,” with its rich story of generations of traditions, memories and roles that were adhered to by the community. Despite the poverty in which his family lived, they sang and danced and loved. They drew comfort in their hard-fought life from the constants of family and tradition.

What might we learn from Tevye about tradition in our own difficult times?

When a couple marries, they form a new family. This new family brings traditions from each of their original families with them. At this stage they have the opportunity keep traditions they like, get rid of ones they don’t agree with, and form traditions unique to their new family. Their relatives need to give them the space and encouragement to do this. This new couple team must decide what will work for their relationship. They may drop certain traditions, only to retrieve them later as circumstances change.

This is the perfect time to question traditions. I like the cute story of a young bride cooking her first Easter ham. She cut the ham in half and put it into two pans, the way her mother had taught her, then baked it following her mother’s recipe. As her mother helped her put the food out, the young bride asked why the ham had to be cut in half and cooked in two pans. Her mother realized she didn’t know why; it was the way she had always seen her own mother cook ham. They called Grandma into the kitchen and asked her about this practice. Grandma laughed and explained that when she was first married she did not have a large enough pan for the ham so she had to cut it in half to make it fit in the pan. Two generations later, the ham was still cut in half whether it needed to be or not! The family had a tradition that now brought them enjoyment together.

How do we decide to make something a tradition? In our family, if we try something new and there is fun and fondness for the shared experience, we dare to call it a tradition and repeat it again the following year. The game “Apples to Apples” was brought out once to fill time after an early family dinner and it was such a huge hit with everyone around the table laughing and jostling for the lead, that the game now comes out almost as soon as people walk in the door. All look forward to this tradition.

Other games did not work as well, and were dropped. Stepfamilies must walk carefully with establishing new traditions. I heard of a stepfamily celebrating their first Christmas together. One side was used to spending hours together decorating the tree, carefully handling each delicate ornament, placing it while sharing sentimental stories of how the ornaments came into their lives. The other side of the family was happy to just throw some lights and tinsel on a tree and be done with it. After a lengthy and heated discussion it was decided that each half of the family would decorate half of the tree in their preferred style. The first year the family was a little embarrassed by the odd look of their tree, but agreed it captured their new family spirit. After a discussion the second year, the family decided that what worked the first year would work again. By the fifth year the two families looked forward to their creative tree and were blending the two styles. They now had stories of their own about the decorations. A new tradition had been born and a new family bonded through the acts and practices they shared.

Ask my family about the turducken tradition! They’ll tell you that we conspired to upend a traditional Thanksgiving Holiday meal. It was done at their request after they learned from us that a turducken is a boned turkey that holds a boned duck that holds a boned chicken. These poultries are layered one inside the other, each with a specific stuffing and slowly roasted for a long, long time. It is presented at the holiday feast as a turkey on a platter and sliced as a roast. Some loved it and some were appalled that it was not the usual turkey. Apparently they expected another turkey on the side. Four years later, we still reminisce about this meal. The mere mention of Thanksgiving immediately launches us into this discussion. We’ll probably never make turducken again but it sure brings us together as we relive the experience!

Try to be flexible in deciding what you do to bond as a family. Whether it is Christmas cookie making, raking fall leaves together, a hug and a prayer before bed, or grace before meals, our traditions connect and bond us together. Tevye asks “What does God expect us to do?” We are called to love one another. Family and tradition give us that opportunity.

Elsie Radtke
Associate Director, Family Ministries
Smarter Adults – Safer Children

Today's technology offers young people an incredible world of experience. With a click of the mouse, a young person can research a subject for school, chat with friends, check messages, download a song and much more. The upward trend of computer and internet use is strong among young people in America. Of those between the ages of 5 and 17, 90% are using computers and nearly 6 out of 10 are on the internet.

The electronic world can be fun and educational. Unfortunately, like the real world, the electronic world also has inherent dangers. Just as we encourage young people to behave in certain ways when dealing with strangers and interfacing with friends, we need to teach them how to act safely and appropriately when online or while using electronic communication. However, the technology gap between adults and young people is widening. Many children grow up with computers and think they are safe and fun. Many adults think of computers as work tools. In many cases, children know as much, or even more than many adults about technology.

Law enforcement in the United States observed that child molester's use of the internet exploded in 1997. Child molesters no longer had to engage in a child-centered profession, lurk in parks and malls, or befriend a parent to gain access to children. An offender could merely sit at a computer and roam online from chatroom to chatroom, trolling for children and teens susceptible to victimization. Safety and security in the electronic world extends to the following: Cell phones/camera phones, text messaging, flash drives, chatrooms, webcams, online gaming, blogs, online bullying and social networking sites. MySpace and Facebook are examples of social networking sites popular with teens and young adults. These sites are an online combination of a school yearbook, personal diary and social gathering place. Internet users often have a false sense of security when using electronic communication. Contrary to young people's belief, there is no privacy on the internet.

As cell phone technology has progressed, we are much more "connected" to one another. Cell phone users can transmit a text message often using slang, abbreviated, or coded language that may not be familiar to adults. A typical message may read:

Home ASAP CULAR 143
(Home as soon as possible. See you later. I love you.)

Parents and educators need to know and recognize the warning signs of potential wrong doing involving electronic communication. Behavioral changes that could indicate that a young person is at risk of harm or being victimized by a predator or bully while using electronic communication:

- Exhibits changes in wardrobe or acts in a provocative manner either at school, at home or in another environment;
- Purchases a webcam or receives one as a gift;
- Begins talking about a new, older friend who gives great advice;
- Suddenly has large amounts of money or new clothes, or receives mail, packages, flowers or other gifts from a new friend;
- Withdraws from family or friends;
- Turns the computer monitor off or quickly changes the screen on the monitor when an adult enters the room.

Isolation and secrecy play very important roles in the grooming process when a person is being victimized on the internet. Make sure the computer is located in an open and visible area, or have an "open door" policy. Let children know you are aware of what they are doing on their computer. Parents and other caring adults can purchase monitoring software packages that restrict access to inappropriate sites on the internet and keep a record of sites that have been visited. Schools need to have computer policies along with content filters. Children need to be educated not to supply personal information while on the computer.

Create an atmosphere for open dialogue with children. Be accessible to answer their questions calmly and with no repercussions or punishment for coming forward with concerns about people they have met online. It is important to note that, unlike victims of other forms of abuse, victims of cyber crimes usually do not view themselves as being victims.

Stay in tune and connected with your children.

Technological Tips for Parents and Other Caring Adults

Tip #1- Check the computer's Internet history by opening the browser, double click on the "History" icon and once it opens you will see the detailed history file of the web addresses visited on that computer.

Tip #2- Be aware of the capabilities of the various Internet search engines to perform an internet search specifically looking for photo or video images. Most search engines will allow parents to turn on a safe search filter that will block most sexually oriented materials while searching.

Tip #3- Determine if your child has opened a private email account. To do this open the web browser and double click on the "History" icon.

Tip #4- Ask your child to go online and show you the location of his/her profile.

Tip #5- Check for Webcam software.

Tip #6- Know Acronyms and other Internet shorthand. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2Nite</td>
<td>Tonight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/S/I</td>
<td>Age/Sex/Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAF</td>
<td>As A Friend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADR</td>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tip #7- Become familiar with Social Networking Sites.

Tip #8- Create a membership account on a social networking site.

Tip #9- Take steps to control your child's access to online gaming sites.

The best security measure in regard to the Internet is to regularly and openly communicate with your children about the latest evolving technology and discuss the risks and benefits.
A Thanksgiving Reflection

Many of us at Cristo Rey can talk about ways that parents have expressed their gratitude for the jobs we do. The Director of Counseling has received numerous “gelatinas,” layered Jell-O dishes that take hours to prepare, for providing his counseling services to students and families. The President has filled his desk with knickknacks from Mexico for writing letters of recommendation for our seniors as they apply to college. From a mother who works at the Blistex factory, I received a bag of lip products for completing a routine Social Security form for her. Parents are extremely grateful for the opportunity Cristo Rey provides their children and find whatever way they can to express it!

And opportunity is precisely what Cristo Rey is about. Cristo Rey Jesuit High School was founded in 1996 by the Society of Jesus to serve the immigrant families of the Pilsen and Little Village neighborhoods. Through its innovative Corporate Internship Program, students work one day a week to earn approximately 70% of the cost of their education, thus allowing the school to fulfill its mission of serving families that, especially for financial reasons, would not attend another Catholic school. Its college preparatory curriculum prepares students to continue their studies beyond high school. Last year all graduating seniors were accepted to post-secondary programs, most to four-year university programs. The dual language component of the curriculum develops students’ literacy skills in both English and Spanish, thus preparing students to live and work in a global society and recognizing the gifts students bring as bilingual persons. Most importantly, Cristo Rey’s Catholic Jesuit identity provides the atmosphere for formation of future leaders who exemplify the school’s motto, “Men and Women for Others.”

Yet, none of this happens without some real challenges. Violence is not uncommon in the neighborhoods of Cristo Rey and of its families. At the top of the priority list for our parents is the importance of a safe environment here at the school.

Many parents tell me that the only activities that they let their sons or daughters take part in are at Cristo Rey. Imagine the responsibility we have in making sure this safety is a reality! Also, many of our students struggle academically at some point or points in their Cristo Rey careers. We hold high expectations for students, and some need a little more time, a little more help, or another chance to take a class before they graduate. Our students often find themselves having to negotiate a whole new world of complicated questions related to financing a college education. We have helped students arrive on their college campuses raring to go before they realize that they cannot afford to buy books! Expecting less of them would be unjust. Most of our students are the first in their families to go to college. How exciting for them to cross this threshold for their families! Yet, as is the case with all first generation college students, our students often find themselves having to negotiate a whole new world called “college culture.” A huge part of that culture involves figuring out the procedures that colleges have related to financial aid. We have helped students arrive on their college campuses raring to go before they realize that they cannot afford to buy books!

I often say to folks at Cristo Rey – students, staff, and to folks considering coming to our school – that Cristo Rey involves hard work. Students work hard for four years in their classes, on their athletic teams, and in their clubs in the hopes of getting into the best colleges possible. Faculty and staff work hard right along with them every step of the way. In some ways it makes perfect sense – in a school where everyone works, everyone works hard.

The parents of students at Cristo Rey do not take any of this for granted. The gratitude they express in many simple yet profound ways is sincere. At this time of Thanksgiving, may their gratitude inspire ours for all of our own opportunities and blessings.

Patricia Garrity
Principal, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School
The Children Matter Network website - www.childrenmatternetwork.org is designed to offer information to parents which focuses on helping children be their best and reach their highest potential. The information provided focuses on prevention, health and wellness.

We invite you to check out the latest offering on the Children Matter Network website located at www.childrenmatternetwork.org.

With the new school year entering its fourth month, we explore the importance of children developing and growing their sense of power and esteem (self-esteem; esteem by others; power; achievement; a sense of being worthwhile; healthy competing and having confidence) within their peer group.

Because your opinion matters, we also invite you to participate in our poll which is located on the website.

We appreciate our partnership with you in promoting and protecting the dignity of our children.

Thank you,

The Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
The Children Matter Network for the Archdiocese of Chicago
www.childrenmatternetwork.org

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To report allegations of child abuse directly to civil authorities contact:

**Illinois Department of Children and Family Services**

In Illinois call 1-800-25-ABUSE or 1-800-252-2873;
Outside of Illinois call 217-524-2606;
TTY 1-800-358-5117

**Cook County States Attorney’s Office**
contact, Shauna Boliker, Chief of the Sex Crimes Division,
1-773-869-6492;

**Lake County States Attorney’s Office**
contact, Patricia Fix, Chief of the Felony Trial Division
1-847-377-3000;

To report allegations of sexual abuse of minors by a priest or deacon, lay employee, and/or volunteer to the Archdiocese of Chicago contact:
Leah McCluskey, 1-312-751-5205 or 1-800-994-6200.

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Archdiocese of Chicago
Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
P.O. Box, 1979
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Director, Jan Slattery, 312-751-5319

Office of Assistance Ministry
Director, Matt Hunnicutt
312-751-8267 or 1-866-517-4528
Assistant Director, Mayra Flores, 312-751-8256

Safe Environment Office
Director, Womazetta Jones, 312-751-5238

Office for Child Abuse Investigations and Review
Director, Leah McCluskey, 312-751-5205
or 1-800-994-6200
Assistant Director, Patricia Zacharias, 312-867-8793

Office Manager, Carolyn Perz, 312-751-5388
Main Number, 312-751-5254
Fax: 312-751-8307

Comments or questions concerning
On-Going for Kids newsletter?
Contact Womazetta Jones at 312-751-5238