## Bishop Robert Barron

Word on Fire Show

## How to Keep Our Kids Catholic

## Part I (00:00-16:53)

## Comprehension and discussion questions

1. What books is Bp. Barron currently reading?
2. What book is the host going to discuss with Bp. Barron? Who is its author? What is the main question posed in the book?
3. What is the first principle they discuss? What is the author’s statement? How does Bp. Barron react to it? What pastoral experience does he share?
4. What family experience does he further share? What impression of his father has been imprinted in his mind since childhood? How often did his parents go to Mass when they were just married? What was his mother’s subsequent church attendance practice during Lent?
5. What is the usual practice with parents sending their children to Sunday school?
6. What is the second finding of the book discussed in the podcast? Combination of what parenting styles / approaches does the author find most conducive to keeping children in the Church?
7. How does Bp. Barron compare “pre-Council” and contemporary parenting styles? What Council do you think he has in mind?
8. What episode from his pastoral practice does he relate? What was his reaction to the situation he described? What arguments did he give in support of it? What is his conclusion?
9. What does Bp. Barron say in response to the host’s question about his own parents? What episode from his childhood does he further relate?
10. What is the third conclusion the author reaches in his book?
11. What does Bp. Barron offer as a preface to his own comment? Have you heard of / read the book he mentions / watched screen adaptations?
12. What memories of his parents does Bp. Barron further share? What topics did his mother used to raise in her conversation? What is his concluding remark on this subject?

Part II

(16:54-

1. What other finding described in the book does the host mention? What is the “caveat” added? What are the two extreme attitudes that make parents less successful? What is the common complaint expressed by subscribers, in Brandon’s words?
2. How does Bp. Barron express the widespread reaction to questions and opinions of those seeking truth? What should be the right response, in his opinion? What example from Antiquity does he give? What are the two “easy but dysfunctional” responses to questions about the truth? What did William F. Buckley do when his son was going through a period of questioning the faith? What is the host’s follow-up comment and Bp. Barron’s response to it?
3. How does the book define and describe “religious channeling”? What direction of channeling does the author single out as particularly important? What in Bp. Barron’s personal experience relates to it?
4. What examples and reflections on the subject does Bp. Barron further offer? What message does this having an authoritative religious figure outside of family implicitly communicate to the child, according to Bp. Barron? What does Brandon share about his own family?
5. How have things changed since 1960s in terms of male piety, according to Bp. Barron? What more recent statistics turned out to be a surprise for him? What implications does this have for “religious channeling”?
6. What observation will have “all the DREs [directors of religious education] and parish people nodding their heads with vigorous agreement”? Why? What is Bp. Barron’s response? What message does he have for those undergoing confirmation?
7. What is the concluding statement Brendan makes concerning all the principles discussed in this podcast? What is Bp. Barron’s advice to those parents who feel overwhelmed and guilty after listening to the podcast?
8. What is the question asked by a boy in the phone call, and what is Bp. Barron’s response to it? What principle of Protestantism does he single out as the most important?