

How to More Effectively Minister to Homeschooling Families: *What Priests should know about Homeschooling*

Compiled from Homeschooling Parents in April, 2016
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*With us everything should be secondary compared to our concern with children,
and their upbringing in the instruction and teaching of the Lord.*

- St. John Chrysostom

1. Be experts on helping and preserving marriages.
2. Make time and room for homeschooling activities in their parish halls during the day.
3. Understand what homeschooling is: a choice and follow-through of not outsourcing children's education.
4. If they are not sure they support homeschooling then not to project negative feelings on homeschooling families in their parishes.
5. Know why the families in their parish homeschool. Encourage the good reasons.
6. Remind the homeschool families to not be offensive to those who don't choose to homeschool.
7. Balance potential divisions between homeschooling families and others in the parish.
8. All parents need support and this support should be unconditional.
9. Homeschoolers are often insecure due to the fact that there is not always a way to judge their success, they often need fatherly affirmation.
10. Homeschooling is a job and homeschool parents are busy and should not be called on to do duties because they "are home all day".
11. They need to be ready to counsel homeschool families concerning burn out.
12. The homeschool children of their parish need to be connected to each other.
13. Help the members that homeschool to cross jurisdictional lines so they can fellowship with other Orthodox homeschoolers.
14. Homeschooling families are a blessing and have a lot of enthusiasm, so this should be harnessed and appreciated.
15. Be able to provide good resources and good books to aid in the spiritual life of the homeschool.
16. Be familiar with online resources that might aid the homeschoolers in their spiritual life.