

**Extracted from St John Vianney Bulletin on August 17, 2008**

**To be Seen but not Heard** by Carl E. Beyer

As a child my “so called” parents reminded us often that kids were “To be Seen but not Heard”. That ranked right up there with the telling us they wished they hadn’t had any kids. These statement really was just a reflection of their selflessness for their own pursuit of happiness with total disregard for anyone else’s happiness. What a contrast to our Blessed Mother Mary who gave her body and soul to our Lord.

It has been my experience that those who seek happiness are the unhappiest of us all. Only by trying to make others happy do we achieve happiness in our lives. If someone tells me they are unhappy, I never advise them on how to seek happiness. I say help others and you will help yourself.

The mother that doesn’t want to be bothered by their kid’s problems is not going to be happy. The mother that takes the time to assist, to console, to love their children will be paid back with immensurable joy from their family.

Parents, while we need to provide for our family let us remember that while we need material things to survive, ultimately what the family needs most is time, time together to share their love. What good is that new sports car when the parents are divorce, the kids are neglected and the religion is far in the background.

As a religious community our measurement of success should not be our bank accounts but by our measure of family and friend we have. Talk with your children regardless of their age because you may well find them wise beyond their age. Take the time to pass down the stories of your childhood and stories of your parents’ childhood to enforce the strong family bonds. What most people desire is to belong and to belong to a family is the greatest treasure of all.

So let us kick up the barbeques and invite our family and friends and share our love for each other.

On a final note THANK YOU all for making our pot luck a great success.