



“BUT WHEN HE WAS STILL A GREAT WAY OFF,  
HIS FATHER SAW HIM AND HAD COMPASSION,  
AND RAN AND FELL ON HIS NECK AND KISSED  
HIM.” – LUKE 15:20



# A Welcoming Home for the Lost

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF THE HOLY GREAT FAST

# 1. Clear Expectations

- ▶ Clear expectations provide a firm foundation
- ▶ Why is setting clear expectations important?
  - ▶ It mitigates frustration
  - ▶ Provides a reference for constructive criticism

PEOPLE CAN'T LIVE UP  
TO THE EXPECTATIONS  
THEY DON'T KNOW  
HAVE BEEN SET FOR THEM

## 2. Modeling

- ▶ Modeling is the strongest form of instruction
- ▶ Model:
  - ▶ Observing the commandments of God
  - ▶ Submitting to the order of the church
  - ▶ Prayer life
  - ▶ Reading, discussing, and living Scripture
  - ▶ Joy and peace



### 3. Freedom to Choose

- ▶ **“Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”** (Prov. 22:6)
- ▶ Freedom to choose is a sign of love and respect
- ▶ **“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; 20 that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days...”** (Deut. 30:19-20)

## 4. Controlled Discipline

- ▶ Discipline is a necessary teacher of what is good and true
- ▶ Discipline should be controlled
- ▶ Rather than focusing on finding a logical consequence we can:
  - ▶ Focus on solutions
  - ▶ Offer limited choices
  - ▶ Dealing with the belief behind the behavior
  - ▶ Decide what you will do rather than what you will make your child do
  - ▶ Help child explore the consequences of his choices



## 5. Open Arms

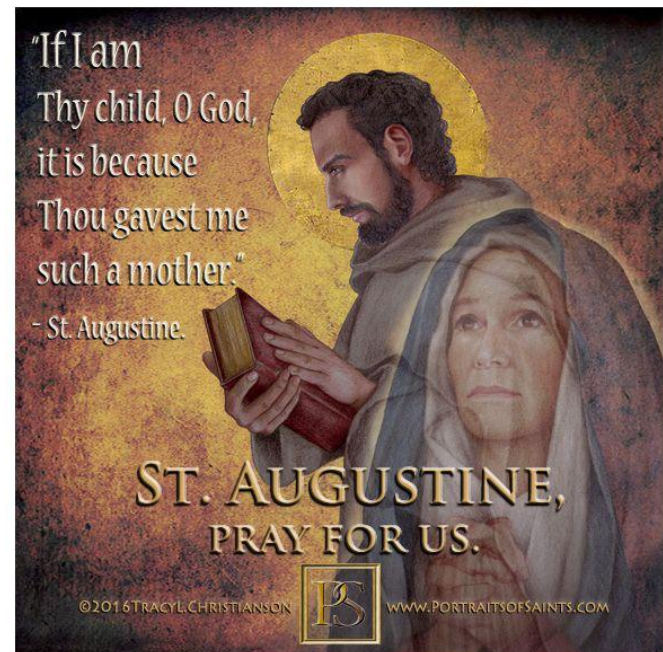
- ▶ **“But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.”** (Lk. 15:20)
- ▶ Signs of Open Arms:
  - ▶ Eager forgiveness
  - ▶ Restoration
  - ▶ Moving on
  - ▶ Do not sacrifice what is right and true for the sake of “love”





## 6. Prayer

- ▶ Prayer is the one permanent connection we have with our children
- ▶ Ex: St. Monica





# Summary

- ▶ How can we make our homes welcoming to the mistaken, lost, and sinful?
  - ▶ Clear Expectations
  - ▶ Modeling
  - ▶ Freedom of Choice
  - ▶ Controlled Discipline
  - ▶ Open Arms
  - ▶ Prayer