

Conference Time Again

Fred Hanko

... The lack of a close relationship between parents and teachers can have several unhappy results. Both parents and teachers are more hesitant to discuss problems with the other when they arise. The lack of knowledge and understanding of each other leads to doubts about what the other is trying to do. Parents begin to talk to each other about "the teachers," and teachers grumble about "the parents" and the result is a poorer relationship

and no progress in our mutual interest, the welfare of the children. If we knew each other better and could talk things over more frequently, I'm sure that many of our problems would disappear.

That's what conferences are all about. It's true, they're very limited in time and are often very formal and structured, but they are the best that we have now, and they do offer an excellent opportunity to help the children

whether your child is doing the best he can. I can give you my opinion. If he is not doing as well as he should, I can tell you what the problems are as I see them. Perhaps I can suggest some ways that he can try to overcome the problem. I can tell you something about his behavior in the group of children at school, I can tell you something about his behavior in the classroom and about the attitudes he shows there.

Looking at the things I want to know from you and the things I want to tell you, several things are clear: We are both interested in the same things. We can accomplish a great deal by sharing our information and our problems. The conferences help us both. By getting to know each other we can accomplish great things.

Your child may not always think so, but we teachers like your child. We want your child to grow in knowledge and understanding that a covenant child needs to live a life of service to God. You want the same thing. The conferences can help us work toward that goal.