

Sample article for your Diocese newsletter

INSTRUCTIONS: modify as required and fill in the highlighted sections

Seminar of Hope...How to Pray for Your Sons, Daughters and Loved Ones

at **PARISH NAME** on **DATES**

By **[YOUR NAME]**

When our loved ones turn from God

It can be extremely distressing to see our sons, daughters and loved ones make life choices that take them away from God. The secular world often tempts people of all ages to put material possessions, relationships, careers, pleasure, or addictions ahead of a relationship with God. Many pray in anguish for their children or loved ones to re-find their faith. Years may pass without improvement and some may feel that God is not listening or wonder if they are doing something wrong.

What can we do?

Jesus tells us to persevere in prayer and that whatever we ask in His name, He will do. Jesus desires that we are in a “right place” with respect to our relationship with Him. In other words, we need to be aligned with God’s will for us and develop a heart that is forgiving, full of love and at peace. Recognizing the needs of parents and grandparents to learn to pray more effectively, a popular seminar called “How to Pray for Your Sons, Daughters and Loved Ones” has been taught over the past 20 years by Vernon Robertson, a Catholic evangelist.

The impact on lives

Vernon and his wife Maureen went through a very difficult phase of their life when their teenage son became a real prodigal. After an intense period of prayer over many years, they had a surprise call one day from their son who was living and working far away. He apologized for how he had treated them, asked their forgiveness, and told them he had re-found his faith.

Feedback

Hundreds and hundreds of people have attended this Seminar of Hope over the past 20 years or watched it on EWTN.

Feedback from previous participants includes:

- “Absolutely transformational for me and my prayer life...”
- “Vernon is a very powerful speaker. I’ve never attended anything quite like this and it touched me deeply.”

“Without a doubt, the Holy Spirit powerfully uses the Seminar of Hope as a channel of healing and reconciliation for people from all walks of life.” -- Fr Jerome Lavigne, St. Peter’s Catholic Church, Calgary, AB

- “I thought it was wonderful...God definitely spoke to me at this seminar.”
- “I now have hope and peace in my heart about my children; I did not have this feeling before.”
- “I felt God telling me: I love you and will take care of you and your loved ones...trust me.”

Upcoming seminar on [DATES]

[PARISH NAME] at [ADDRESS] is pleased to sponsor this two-part seminar starting on [DATE/TIME] and concluding on [DATE/TIME]. To receive a free participant's manual and reserve a seat, please pre-register at [REGISTRATION EMAIL OR WEBSITE OR PHONE NUMBER.] There is no charge for this seminar and a love offering will be taken to cover the speaker's costs. Bring a bag lunch for Saturday.

About the Speaker

Vernon Robertson is a Vancouver based Catholic evangelist, father of three and grandfather of eleven. He has led this seminar for 20 years and has spoken on this and related faith topics across Canada and in other countries. Vernon is currently a board member of Renewal Ministries of Canada. Previously, Vernon was National Catholic Advisor to the Alpha Board of Directors of Canada and served on the Vancouver Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. In October 2010, Vernon was awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (for Church and Pope) Cross by Pope Benedict the XVI. For more information, see www.seminarofhope.org.



About the Writer

[Short bio about the person submitting this article]