



THE BARKING DOG ISN'T THE PROBLEM

Dear Reader,

You would agree that it is not permissible for an employee to miss work without an excuse. You would agree that after two, three, four, or more unexcused absences, such an employee should not be advanced to a higher level in the company. You would even agree that (if not after the first, second, or third unexcused absence, maybe after the fourth, fifth, and sixth unexcused absence, but certainly after the seventh unexcused absence) such an employee should be fired or thrown out of the company (cf. Saint Matthew XXV:14-30). If that is true, then consider this:



In 2015 – 2016 there were 520 children enrolled in our Religious Education Program. Thanks be to God! At the time of enrollment, as at the time of Baptism, the parents of these children were told “you are accepting the responsibility of raising your child in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. **Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?**” And, without exception each parent of the 520 children enrolled in our Religious Education Program responded: **“We clearly understand that attending Mass is required (not only for children enrolled in the Religious Education Program of OHR but for every Baptized Catholic). We agree to meet this requirement.”**



If that is true, then why is it that the average number of children in attendance at Sunday Mass during the 2015 – 2016 academic year was less than 150? Why is it that 372 children missed Mass every Sunday without an excuse (sickness, extreme weather)? Why is it that parents will complain when they are told at registration time for the 2016 – 2017 academic year that their children may not be advanced to the next level, even though they said: “If this requirement (Sunday Mass attendance) is not met, we understand that our child/ren may not be advanced to the next grade level and the reception of the Sacraments may be delayed here at OHR”? I can assure you, **the barking dog isn't the problem.**

JESUS SAID:

“LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM.”

(Saint Matthew XIX:14a)