It takes a whole village to raise a child…

In the absence of a faith environment where the child may live, of which he feels himself a part and in which he feels himself almost held, we risk cultivating hothouse flowers in the atrium, which are incapable of enduring the severity of the external climate. On the other hand, without a place where the child can come in touch with the religious reality in a way and at a pace suitable to children, there is the danger the child will pass by great things without ever being able to grasp, interiorize, and make these realities his own. The initiation of a child into Christian life is not a work that can be fulfilled by the catechist alone, nor by the parents alone. It is the whole Christian community that proclaims Christ, and the child must enter into contact with the entire Christian community. The catechist’s work, valuable as it is, must be sustained and confirmed by a community that lives what the catechist proclaims.

*From The Religious Potential of the Child by Sofia Cavalletti, p. 60.*

*Give me Jesus…*

…It is not in a search for compensation that the child turns to God, but from a profound exigence (need) within the child’s nature. The child needs an infinite, global love, such as no human being is able to give him…

…and in the contact with God the child experiences an unfailing love…the nourishment his being requires, nourishment the child needs in order to grow In harmony. God--who is Love--and the child, who asks for love more than for his mother’s milk, thus meet one another in a particular correspondence of nature…

…In helping the child’s religious life, far from imposing something that is foreign to him, we are responding to the child’s silent request: “***Help me to come closer to God by myself.***

***Liturgy of the Word for Children during the 9 AM Mass on Sundays, OMC “…they ate and were satisfied.” Mk.8:8***