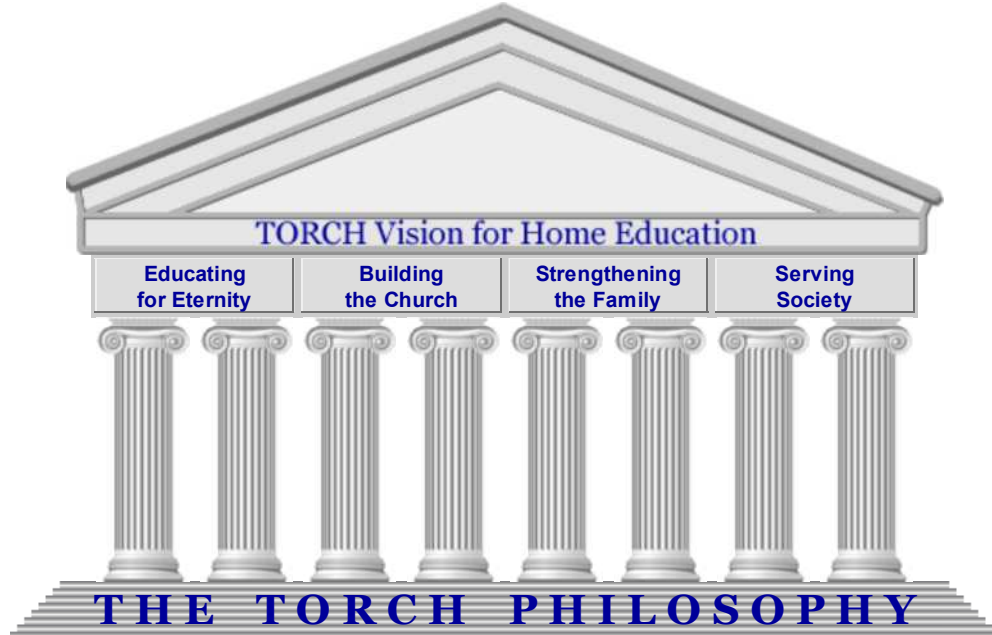


TORCH Mission, Vision and Philosophy



TORCH Mission

Traditions of Roman Catholic Homes (TORCH) is an association of lay faithful established to promote homeschooling among Catholic families and to support those families who are engaged in providing their children's primary education at home.

"Since parents have conferred life on their children they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring. Hence, parents must be acknowledged as the first and foremost educators of their children. Their role as educators is so decisive that scarcely anything can compensate for their failure in it."¹

TORCH has its foundation and as the guiding principle of all its functions and activities, fidelity to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, loyalty to the Holy Father, who, as successor to St. Peter, is the universal teacher in matters of faith and morals, and to the diocesan bishops teaching in communion with him.

"...Religious submission of will and mind must be shown in a special way to the authentic teaching authority of the Roman Pontiff, even when he is not speaking ex cathedra. That is, it must be shown in such a way that his supreme magisterium is acknowledged with reverence, the judgments made by him are sincerely adhered to, according to his manifest mind and will."²

¹ *Gravissimum Educationis*, No. 3

² *Lumen Gentium*, No. 25

TORCH Vision for Educating for Eternity



TORCH Philosophy - TORCH's most important purpose is to aid individuals and families in entering into a more intimate union with our heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, thereby spreading the Kingdom of God on earth. This union with the Trinity is an essential component for success in any endeavor, including homeschooling.



TORCH Philosophy - By her complete adherence to the Father's will, to His Son's redemptive work, and to every prompting of the Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary is the Church's model of faith and charity. Thus, she is a 'preeminent and ... wholly unique member of the Church'. Therefore, every Catholic is called to cultivate a true devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the most loving mother of the Church. This consists most especially in the imitation of her virtues: above all, her faith, hope and love; humility; obedience; simplicity; and her collaboration in the redemptive plan of Jesus Christ.

TORCH Vision for Building the Church



TORCH Philosophy - TORCH is guided in all its activities by the authoritative teaching of the Catholic Church, as presented in the Catechism of the Catholic Church and other approved magisterial sources.



TORCH Philosophy - TORCH seeks communion with the bishop, pastor, diocesan office, and local parish, helping them understand the vocation of Catholic homeschooling and its contribution to the vibrancy of the local and universal Church. We envision a complementary relationship in which our expression of faith through homeschooling enriches the Church and at the same time we benefit from the blessings of the wider Church.

TORCH Vision for Strengthening the Family



TORCH Philosophy - TORCH views homeschooling as a vibrant, positive, and challenging educational option — rather than a negative reaction against the public or parochial schools. Parents must impart the truth to their children for the truths of our Catholic Faith are the foundation of knowledge from which all other learning flows. From parent to child, the love for human virtues and academic excellence is passed on through example and invitation.



TORCH Philosophy - TORCH strongly endorses the Roman Catholic Church's teaching on sexuality and bioethics (e.g., teachings on fornication, adultery, in-vitro fertilization, artificial insemination, contraception, abortion, etc.). These actions are in direct violation of the family as created by God. As TORCH and homeschooling deal specifically with families and home life, it is necessary to make this philosophical connection between human sexuality and TORCH.

TORCH Vision for Serving Society



TORCH Philosophy - TORCH membership is open to all persons, single or married, regardless of religious affiliation. Non-homeschooling families are welcome to join TORCH so that they can participate in any of our activities.



TORCH Philosophy - TORCH is always open to new ideas and activities on how to better promote and aid the building of authentic and strong Christian homes, thereby instilling a zealous and apostolic Christian lifestyle in our families, our neighborhood, our country, and our world.