

You Can Only Be as Happy as Your Saddest Child

Intending to move to Chicago, what if you and your partner boarded the plane only to find that you were permanently residing in Madagascar? You would no doubt feel bewildered. This is not what you signed up for. So, you set about adjusting your priorities, learning a new language and customs. But often people end up thankful for what they mourned.

This is not a far-fetched analogy for parents of exceptional children who have downs syndrome, autism, deaf, blind and/or disabled. While no parent would wish these conditions on their progeny, it happens. And make no mistake, it is a struggle with the unrelenting demands and unabated dependency of these children. But, the good news is: With help from God, adequate medical, community and family support, almost all families learn to accept, celebrate and develop zealous attachment to their special needs children. I will go so far to say that most human beings have the capacity to care for children regardless of their challenges. In other words, Zoe will be here for you every step of the way.

I am a witness to the love, courage and determination of these parents. I have seen parents transformed and strengthened by the challenge of nurturing their exceptional children who they learn to love and respect just the way they are.

I take off my hat to all the courageous, valiant and committed parents who have a reputation for protective vigilance and who seem to have an endless capacity for kindness and patience to nurture their children to become all they can be.

We should be reminded that “no body is perfect”. All of us, especially children, have defects, but we have to go to war with the army we have.

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