

Susie Lloyd

# Please Don't Drink the Holy Water!

Homeschool Days, Rosary Nights,  
and Other Near Occasions of Sin

SOPHIA INSTITUTE PRESS®  
Manchester, New Hampshire

Copyright © 2004 Susie Lloyd

Printed in the United States of America

All rights reserved

Illustrations and cover design by Theodore Schluenderfritz

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except by a reviewer, who may quote brief passages in a review.

Sophia Institute Press®

Box 5284, Manchester, NH 03108

1-800-888-9344

[www.sophiainstitute.com](http://www.sophiainstitute.com)

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Lloyd, Susie, 1966-

Please don't drink the holy water! : homeschool days, rosary nights, and other near occasions of sin / Susie Lloyd.

p. cm.

ISBN 1-928832-19-9 (pbk. : alk. paper)

1. Home schooling — Humor. 2. Catholics — Humor.

I. Title: Please do not drink the holy water!. II. Title.

PN6231.H56L66 2004

814'.6 — dc22

2004021520

*To Greg and my five girlfriends,  
a measure pressed down and running over.  
Together with the Author of the Real World,  
they made me a mother.*

*And special thanks to Elizabeth,  
my Real World writer buddy.*





## Contents

### Introduction

Will the “Real World” Please Stand Up? . . . . . xi

### Part 1

### Moms, Don’t Try This at Home

Keeping Up Appearances . . . . . 5

Sorry, My Brain Is Spoken For . . . . . 9

How the Great Books Prepared Me for a  
Rewarding Career Teaching Cave Lingo . . . . . 15

The Real World, Stardate 17.20 . . . . . 19

History Meets Improv . . . . . 23

Aquinas on Homeschooling . . . . . 33

The Sheep and the Goats . . . . . 37

Part 2  
Driving Under the  
Influence of Guilt

The Top Ten Things That Resist Societal Change. . . 43

How to Get Rid of Scam Artists, Mormons, and Other  
People You've Unwittingly Moved in Next Door To . . . 49

For All the Saints . . . . . 55

Forbidden Fruits . . . . . 61

It's the End of the (Real) World as We Know It . . . 69

The TV-Starved Family . . . . . 73

Chivalry Is Dead: It Collided with My Stroller . . . . 79

What's in a Name (Besides a Royal Title)? . . . . . 83

B.C. . . . . 87

Part 3  
Trust Providence —  
Not to Warn You What's Coming

My Other Car Is a Homeschool Bus . . . . . 95

Bless Me, Father . . . . . 99

Do-It-All-By-Yourself . . . . . 105

A Little Wet Chocolate . . . . . 111

The Case of the Supplanted Sibling . . . . . 115

Blessings in Disguise . . . . . 119

“Just Wait Until They’re Teenagers!” . . . . .	123
What Kind of Mother Are You? . . . . .	127
Father Necessity . . . . .	133

Part 4

Just Between You and Me  
and the Crayon on the Walls

Fighting the Pack-Rat Gene — One Mound at a Time . . . . .	141
Family Prayer: An Occasion of Sin. . . . .	145
Fight Reruns . . . . .	151
The Extracurricular Activity for Dummies . . . . .	155
Never Let 'Em See You Rest. . . . .	165
Lent Is Coming. Will Your Looks Survive? . . . . .	173
Family Vacations (and Other Ways to Punish Your Kids) . . . . .	179
Grim and Grimy Fairy Tales. . . . .	185
There’s No Place Like Home . . . . .	189
The Golden Years . . . . .	197

Biographical Note

Susie Lloyd . . . . .	201
-----------------------	-----



*Introduction*



*Will the “Real World”  
Please Stand Up?*

“How are your kids going to make it in the Real World?”

Do you get that question a lot? If so, you must be a Catholic parent — maybe even that strange and mysterious subspecies: a homeschooler.

You hear it at parties and supermarkets, at the doctor’s and the grocer’s. It comes in tones of curiosity, concern, or thinly disguised skepticism. It can make you pause and stammer — not out of embarrassment, but simply because you’re unsure of how to answer.

That’s because it’s one of those questions that don’t really have an answer. In fact, it isn’t even a real question. As a teaching parent, I’d give it an Incomplete.

What, after all, is the Real World? *Where* is the Real World?

When you start probing, you find out that the experts do have some clues:

*It’s big.*

The only chance your kids have is to hand them over to experts — that is, anybody but yourself — because as a parent you are inclined to shelter them from it, and we wouldn’t want that.

*It’s elite.*

## Please Don't Drink the Holy Water!

Its inhabitants belong to an exclusive club that churns out conventional wisdom. Members are known as “they,” as in the phrase, “They say . . .”

*A great divide separates us from them.*

Catholics who take seriously the admonition to be *in* the world but not *of* it are living in a dangerous place called Shelterhaven. We cannot cross over from our side to theirs.

*It's a nice place to live, but you wouldn't want to visit.*

Any child brought up in Shelterhaven would immediately die of shock in the Real World. Therefore, parents should send their kids into it as soon as possible, especially if they show unhealthy signs, like getting too attached to their mother in preschool.

The Real World. It's one of those catch phrases designed to strike parents dumb with fear. It looms ahead like a black hole. It's unfamiliar, it's big, it's “out there.” It's waiting to suck us in!

But fear not. In fact, the Real World is familiar, manageable, and sitting around your kitchen table. It's the Catholic family on the road to heaven.

The Lloyd family has been homeschooling right from the beginning. Our oldest is now a teenager. I've written tens of thousands of words on the subject, from prayers that are guaranteed to keep your kid out of hell to where to buy a cow's eyeball.

This book is about the very Real World of a Catholic family, just trying to do the best we can. We're every bit a part of the twenty-first century even if we are down in the catacombs attempting to live by first-century values. Sometimes a bit of pagan Rome creeps in, yet we keep trying in the very real hope that we may laugh at all of it someday with the first Christians in the *real* Real World.