

June 20, 2020

A common phrase found in many obituaries, which is most beautiful, is the beloved deceased person was "always there for his (or her) family."

An endless number of complimentary statements could be inserted into an obituary to describe the beloved deceased person. But, in my estimation, none is more complimentary than the aforementioned. To "always" be present for one's family is the most fundamental vocation each person possesses. Whether you are rich or poor, black or white, young or old, a mere child or a centurion, it doesn't matter. To always be there for one's family is absolutely essential to your life and mine.

Therefore, whatever we need to do to fulfill the most fundamental vocation, that's what we ought to do. Unequivocally, if there is an obstacle to any aspect of fulfilling the most fundamental vocation, it's time for us to remove it.

After all, if we "can be there" for others, then equal time and effort should be given in doing so for family. "If he/she only had the time, then he/she would have been there for his/her family," is not what ought to be found in either your or my obituary!

Peace, Fr. Marc