

# FAMILY MISSION STATEMENT - FACILITATOR SCRIPT

## OPENING PRAYER

We bless your name, O Lord,  
for sending your own incarnate Son,  
to become part of a family,  
so that, as He lived His life,  
He would experience its worries and its joys.  
We ask you, Lord,  
to protect and watch over all families,  
so that in the strength of your grace  
they may enjoy prosperity,  
possess the priceless gift of your peace,  
and, as the Church alive in the home,  
bear witness in this world to your glory.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

-- from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

## TALK ON THE DOMESTIC CHURCH:

Everyone is part of a family and it is in the context of the family where we first learn who God is and to prayerfully seek His will for us. Because of this, the Catholic Church often describes the family as “the domestic church.” This phrase, first used in the Church document *Lumen Gentium*, expresses the idea that it is in the family where we first experience God.

Family life is a special state of life where individuals have the unique ability to make Christ known to others while living in “ordinary circumstances.” Each day, families have the opportunity to live out their calling to be a “church” as they live a life of faith, hope, and charity.

Our Catholic faith also teaches us that “we constitute one family in Christ,” regardless of our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Therefore, we are called not just to serve the family in our own household, but those in our community, and those around the world.

It's easy to feel disconnected, as we juggle work, family, school, activity after activity, and commitment after commitment. Sometimes there really doesn't seem to be enough hours in a day! But it can be hard to find the time to volunteer. It may be time to sit down and reflect on how we spend our waking hours.

One of the most satisfying, fun, and productive ways to regroup and unite as a family or as a part of a community is volunteering. Volunteerism sets a good example for family, friends, and neighbors. The satisfaction and joy that come from helping others are important reasons to volunteer. When you commit your time and effort to an organization or a cause you feel strongly about, the feeling of fulfillment can be empowering. Volunteering is a great way for families and friends to have fun and feel closer. You may want to focus on just one or two projects a year and create new traditions.

Talk about your family's mission. What does your family care about? How do you want to spend your time together? Then figure out how you can focus more on this mission and what means the most to you and your family. You may want to try new things together or take on new projects. You may want to start praying together. If you haven't done this before, it's never too late to start! Get together around activities that you enjoy.

Families can volunteer in many ways. Even the smallest child (with adult supervision) can pick up garbage at the park, playground, or beach. You don't even have to be part of a big effort to do this. Get your family together, find some garbage bags, and head out.

Perhaps the first and biggest benefit of volunteering is the satisfaction of incorporating service into our lives and making a difference in our families, communities, in our country, and around the world. The intangible benefits alone—such as joy, satisfaction, and accomplishment—are worthwhile reasons to serve. In addition, when time and talents are shared:

- Problems are solved
- Communities are strengthened
- We relate to others
- Lives are transformed

Our activities today will help us begin the discussion on how your domestic church will shine Christ's light for all to see.

## DIRECTIONS FOR FAMILIES:

1. On the tables in front of you, there are flyers labeled "Family Mission Statement." Sit with your family and begin to discuss your family mission using the prompts on the form. There also is a space to write out your family's mission statement. Rosary coloring pages also are provided so that even your youngest family members can be involved.
2. Once your family has determined its mission statement, you will choose five family activities: one to serve God, one to serve each other, one to serve your parish, one to serve your community, and one to serve the world. You can come up with these activities on your own or use the suggestions in the box provided. This will be how your family chooses to live out its mission – be creative and make it your own! Once the activities are determined, your family will write them in the boxes on the top right.
3. Commit to engaging in these activities, as well as praying the rosary together, offering one activity per decade. For example, if you choose to volunteer at a nursing home as a family, offer one decade of your family rosary for the people who live there. Again, every family is different and we encourage you to make this meaningful and realistic for your family.
4. We will gather again in \_\_\_\_\_ minutes and end our time together in prayer (prayer cards will be provided).

*\*\*\*Parishes also are encouraged to enhance this event as they see fit. Parishes may want to:*

- Have the families pray a rosary together or hand out rosaries for families to take with them
- Add another craft or family project
- Encourage/advertise a specific ministry they would like to have families become involved in
- Make it a potluck, watch a video, or have a speaker come to present more in-depth information related to marriage & family life or social concerns