

(August 2019)

THE JOY OF LOVE

Chapter 9 – The Spirituality of Marriage and the Family (Part I)

“The Lord’s presence dwells in real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes.” 315

“If a family is centered on Christ, he will unify and illumine its entire life. Moments of pain and difficulty will be experienced in un-ion with the Lord’s cross, and his closeness will make it possible to surmount them.” 317

“And all of us, before going to sleep, hope to wake up and continue this adventure, trusting in the Lord’s help. In this way, each spouse is for the other a sign and instrument of the closeness of the Lord, who never abandons us: ‘Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age’. (Mt 28:20)” 319

“The space which each of the spouses makes exclusively for their personal relationship with God not only helps heal the hurts of life in common, but also enables the spouses to find in the love of God the deepest source of meaning in their own lives. Each day we have to invoke the help of the Holy Spirit to make this interior freedom possible.” 320

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love;
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience
violence, rejection and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.