

Vocation to Parenthood
CCE Parent Night
September 10/11, 2019

Reflection & Activity

The Christian family loudly proclaims both the present virtues of the Kingdom of God and the hope of a blessed life to come. (*Lumen Gentium* 35).

Through the grace of the sacrament of marriage, parents receive the responsibility and privilege of ***evangelizing their children***. **Parents should initiate their children at an early age into the mysteries of the faith of which they are the “first heralds” for their children.** They should associate them from their tenderest years with the life of the Church. A wholesome family life can foster interior dispositions that are a genuine preparation for a living faith and remain a support for it throughout one’s life. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2225)

“Catholic parents must learn to form their family as a domestic church, a church in the home, as it were, where God is honored, his law is respected, prayer is a normal event, virtue is transmitted by word and example, and everyone shares the hopes, the problems and sufferings of everyone else. All this is not to advocate a return to some outdated style of living. It is to return to the roots of human development and human happiness!” ***Pope Saint John Paul II, address in NYC, October 7, 1995***

Instructions:

Part 1

- Reflect upon the above teachings of the Church which elevate Parenthood to a sacred calling and call the family to be a ‘domestic’ church.
- Then, ‘paint’ a picture in your mind’s eye of your family representing the life that you would hope for it as a unit or community, as well as for each of its individual members specifically.

Part 2

- When you have had an opportunity to reflect upon these teachings and create a ‘picture’ please turn to a neighbor. Share your vision for your family and its members and then discuss the following questions:
 - Do you believe that your vision for fulfilling your family’s mission of being a *domestic church* is realistic?
 - What difficulties do you anticipate encountering in your journey to do so?
 - What positive and intentional choices can you make as a parent and as a family to bring about this vision?
 - **Talk and Turn to share with a partner if Time Permits**

Homework:

Reflecting upon the ‘picture’ you created for your family, write a prayer at home asking for discernment regarding God’s will for your family and for each of its individual members in their lives. Be sure to ask for the strength and wisdom to fulfill your sacred vocation as a parent to the children that God has entrusted to your care, asking that God help you to fulfill His vision for your family. Recite your prayer as of part of your daily routine.

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Closing Prayer/Reflection

“Surrender to God and He will do everything for you.”

(Parish Theme for this year comes from the Psalm 37 antiphon)

Prayer of Surrender

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty,
my memory, my understanding and my whole will.
All that I am and all that I possess You have given me:
I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will.
Give me only Your love and Your grace;
with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more.
Amen.

St. Ignatius Loyola
Spiritual Exercises, 16th Century