A PODCAST FOR FAMILIES

The Diocese of Victoria shared some exciting news on Christmas Day as a new podcast was launched, made especially for families: the DOV Family Podcast. This new outreach will feature the popular Wednesday Webchats with special guests, as well as two new series:

- **Marriage Minute with Father Gary Janak**, as he shares advice for married couples from his 30+ years of marriage ministry

- **Webchats with Fathers Kristopher Fuchs & Jacob Koether**, as they discuss topics important to families with Justin Reyes, Director of Family Evangelization

So *why should families subscribe and listen?* Here are five reasons:

#1: Families need encouragement, and a reminder of just how AWESOME family life is! Despite all of the negative stats we hear about marriage, did you know that around 80% of marriages are happy, with around 30% being very happy? (Source: “The Good News About Marriage” by Shaunti Feldhahn and Tally Whitehead) Married couples need to remember and celebrate just how great their vocation is, and what a gift they have in their spouse!
#2: We will be having some FUN on the episodes! If you’ve spent any time talking with Father Kristopher and Father Jacob, you’ve probably laughed a time or two. They are full of joy! And eager to share the love of Christ with the world. Every second Wednesday we will have candid conversations about family life, theology, and whatever else comes to mind! So don’t miss out on this opportunity to have fun, and learn something new at the same time.

#3: We will have special guests, and some will surprise you. This past year, we had webchats with Father Donald Calloway, author of Consecration to Saint Joseph, in addition to other surprise guests. On fourth and fifth Wednesdays you will hear from priests near and far, as well as laypeople and religious. Tune in to be surprised each month, and e-mail your suggestions for guests to jreyes@victoriadiocese.org. We love new ideas!

#4: There will be giveaways. For the faithful listeners, every now and then we will give you the opportunity to win free stuff! So, don’t miss out any week, as it might be your chance to get some cool new Catholic gear!

#5: It’s easily accessible. In addition to finding episodes by visiting the Facebook Page every Wednesday, you can also subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Stitcher. Not only that, episodes will also be posted on the Diocese of Victoria Family Evangelization YouTube Channel. We’ve made it so that no matter your favorite platform, you have the opportunity to listen!

So what are you waiting for? Have you download it yet? If not, a new adventure is just a few clicks (or “taps”) away. We pray this new resource will be a blessing to you and your loved ones in this New Year, especially as our diocese continues in the Year of the Family, and our global church in a Year of St. Joseph. It seems that God is really elevating the role and value of family life in our world today, even as we face challenges.

With 2020 behind us, let’s make a commitment to make 2021 a year of hope, and a year for families to celebrate all that they are! In the words of St. Pope John Paul II:

“Family, become what you are!”

All for the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, all through the Sor- rowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, all in union with St. Joseph.

Amen.