

Notes for North Norfolk Deanery Meeting 20th January 2009

Background to Home is a Holy Place

HHP produced by the Episcopal Conference for use in England and Wales as part of a trilogy of resources, published as a result of Listening 2004.

HHP vision statement is 3 fold

1. Home is a Holy Place because God is present there as love
2. Home is a Holy Place because relationships within the family reflect God's relationship with us.
3. Home is a Holy Place because God's presence graces all creation

Possible Uses of Material

The following are some ideas we drew up as suggestions. We have tried to consider a number of ways of using the materials.

The work pack can be used in full with a group but we have tried to think of other ways it could be used as a Lenten resource.

Family as Domestic Church (worksheet: How do you and your family show love for one another?)

One possible idea may be to get people to consider during Lent how they give thanks for the day to day elements of their lives eg Grace before meals and after meals. "Routine prayers that may remind us of how God provides for us in our daily lives. Some people may be very observant of this or it may be something we did as children and have forgotten as adults. This could be done as an insert in a bulletin or sermon

Questionnaire (worksheet Challenges in Family Relationships)

Mary C has adapted a questionnaire from one of the work sheets which could be inserted to a weekly bulletin, to stimulate discussion or reflection.

eg

Do members of your family:

1. Communicate and listen to each other
2. Affirm and Support each other
3. Teach a sense of right or wrong
4. Have a strong sense of family with for example rituals and traditions
5. Share leisure time
6. Admit to and seek help with problems

Reconciliation Services (worksheet Challenges in Family Relationships)

One of the worksheets talks about how a symbolic gesture of taking a stone, representing our family burdens of whatever nature they may be to confession and placing that burden before the Lord. A gentle symbolic action which can be very healing. Page 13 of the booklet has a section "When Family life hurts" which could be copied to aid preparation.

Sermons (worksheet: Nourishing home as a Holy Place)

These offer the chance to reach those who may not attend courses or read bulletins.

Laitly often ask for the real Church teaching about the spirituality of marriage and family life, in all its broken and messy reality. Linking to the Familiaris Consortio message that God is love and the Church identifies marriage as one clear way in which husband and wife live out their vocation to love.

The place of matrimony as a sacrament (page 15 introducing Home is a Holy Place).

Sacramental aspects include: sharing of meals, in the love of husband and wife, in the times when forgiveness is asked and given.

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DVD

There are a number of sections to the DVD and in total it lasts about 25 minutes. They could be used as individual sessions or as part of a group. In parishes that are not running a group it could be offered as "a loan" to assist in reflection (realise this might mean it goes missing but.....)

Trinity and Pentecost

Looking ahead after Lent the opportunity to link Family life to the Trinity (page 11 introductory booklet)

Celebrating Marriage – Our Diocesan Mass and Celebration is Saturday 11th July please promote.

Thank you for inviting us to talk with you.