

Some quotes to illustrate the vocation to domestic church

1. "From the marriage of Christians there comes the family in which new citizens of human society are born and, by the grace of the Holy Spirit in Baptism, those are made children of God so that the People of God may be perpetuated throughout the centuries. **In what might be regarded as the domestic Church**, the parents, by word and example, are the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children." (Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium* 11)
2. "The mission of being the primary vital cell of society has been given the family by God himself. This mission will be accomplished when the family, by mutual affection of its members and by family prayer, presents itself as a domestic sanctuary of the church..." (Vatican II, *Apostolicam Actuositatem* 11)
3. "At different moments in the Church's history and also in the Second Vatican Council, the family has well deserved the beautiful name of "domestic Church." [106] This means that there should be found in every Christian family the various aspects of the entire Church. Furthermore, the family, like the Church, ought to be a place where the Gospel is transmitted and from which the Gospel radiates." (Paul VI *Evangelii Nuntiandi* 71)
4. "The Christian family constitutes a specific revelation and realisation of the ecclesial communion, and for that reason it can and should be called a **domestic church**." (John Paul II *Familiaris Consortio* 21)
5. "In a special way, I invite Catholic families to be 'domestic churches' (*Lumen Gentium* 11), in which the Christian faith is lived and passed on to the young as a treasure, and where all pray together. If they live up to the ideal which God places before them, Catholic homes will be true centres of evangelisation."
6. "You have asked to have your children baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour...
...God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May he bless the fathers of these children. With their wives they will be the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. May they also be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus the Lord..." (From the *Rite of Baptism*.)
7. "Finally attention must be devoted to the importance of two vital educational *loci*: the family and the school. In a certain sense nothing replaces family catechesis, especially for its positive and receptive environment, for the example of adults, and for its first explicit experience and practice of the faith." (From *General Directory for Catechesis* 178)
8. "...the home is the first school of Christian life and 'a school for human enrichment.' Here one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous - even repeated - forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life." (From *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1657)

Listening 2004

"Not Easy But Full of Meaning"

"A broader understanding of marital and family spirituality among both clergy and laity will be fundamental to the success of any future work by the church in support of family life."

HOME IS A HOLY PLACE - Vision Statement

- Home is a holy place because God as love is present.
- Home is a holy place because God's presence graces all creation.
- Home is a holy place because family relationships mirror God-in-relationship.

"Home is a holy place because God as Love is present".

- "Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, God love." *1John 4:7-8*
- "Love is God" *St. Augustine sermons on the 1st letter of John.*

Life-giving Love

- "Jesus Christ has shown us what is always the supreme source of our life and thus of the lives of families: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one had greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (*Jn 15:12-13*). *Benedict XVI World Meeting of Families July 2006.*
- "Anyone who wishes to give love must also receive love as a gift." *Deus Caritas Est #7*

Life-giving Love

- "In order to love another person it is necessary to have that security that comes from having been loved. That is why the love of parents is so important for a child's personal development and growth... It is from our first carers that we learn how to love ourselves and how to love others in the right way." *Cherishing Life#98*
- "The family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love..." *Familiaris Consortio #17*
- "The family..is a community of persons: Without love the family is not a community of persons...." *Familiaris Consortio #17*

"God's presence graces all creation".

Without compromising the gratuity of grace, Vatican II understands it to be constitutive of human nature. In other words we cannot and should not think of human nature independently of grace... This grounded in the perception that human nature is intrinsically ordered to God who is our fulfilment. In a sense, even in our fallen state, we never lose the memory of the one by whom we are made... Not only does 'grace build upon nature' but this relationship grounds human freedom, and thus the possibilities that nature has for realising itself.

In an important sense, the way in which we understand the relationship of nature and grace also conditions the possibility of a genuinely sacramental vision of reality. If grace is integral to nature then all nature has in some way the capacity to disclose grace and be a vehicle of it... While the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, remain essential to the church's life, they are not the exclusive means of encounter with God's economy. On the one hand, this opens up the possibility of an enriched spirituality and allows people to understand the sacramental nature of their ordinary lives, hence the universal call to holiness" *On the way to Life p40-41.*