

Cultivating Family Spirituality

Presenting Michael Stratman and Alicia Saucedo

- ▶ This presentation is taken from Greg and Lisa Popcak from the Family Life Summit titled, “*Celebrating the Liturgy of the Domestic Church.*”
 - ▶ *By walking with families and help them develop family Spirituality, we give them encouragement that they can love, connect and care for one another in the family.*
 - ▶ Conveys God’s love and draws families into the life of the Trinity
 - ▶ What is it that you want to pass on about the faith?
 - ▶ The post Vatican II appreciation of the family as ‘domestic church,’...’ opens to it undreamed-of perspectives of participation in the salvific mission of the Church.”
 - ▶ -Cardinal Ouellet

Cultivating Family Spirituality

- ▶ Where they can encounter Christ in the daily activities of family life.
- ▶ By bringing Jesus home to the family and being intentional with all that we do this encounter within the family is made possible.
- ▶ Our faith is our response to God's invitation to a relationship with him.
- ▶ A few ways that we can do this living out the common call of Priest, Prophet and King (Royal) that was bestowed at our baptism.

Cultivating Family Spirituality

▶ Priesthood of the faithful:

- ▶ We share in this call through our baptism and we are “enabled to offer ourselves in sacrifice along with Christ.”
- ▶ A sacrificial love, or a sense of dying to ourselves for the good of the other.

▶ Prophetic call of the faithful:

- ▶ Making known the presence of God
- ▶ Proclaiming the Word of God
- ▶ By living out this prophetic call within the family we can proclaim the Word through mercy, compassion, and understanding.
- ▶ Three phrases needed in a family:
 - ▶ May I
 - ▶ I am Sorry
 - ▶ Thank You

Cultivating Family Spirituality

▶ King (Royal):

- ▶ We live this royal call first through being created in his image and likeness while honoring this of each other.
- ▶ It is also lived through striving for holiness, being committed to ongoing growth, and willingness to serve others

▶ Liturgy

- ▶ Work of the people
- ▶ Public act of worship

Cultivating Family Spirituality Discussion Questions

How do you see family stories connecting with the story of faith?

How might it be good news to families to learn this?

How can families be more generous and compassionate to the world?

How Does a “family” become a Domestic Church?

- ▶ Foundation of the family is instituted by God not invented
 - ▶ *Genesis 2:20 -24, 4:1*
- ▶ Parents are the face of the Church in the eyes of the Children
 - ▶ *Genesis 1:28; Galatians 4:1-2; Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Proverbs 1:7*
- ▶ Success in this regard is not so much on what a parent does but more profoundly on who a parent demonstrates to be.
 - ▶ *Galatian 4:1-2; Deuteronomy 6”6-9; Proverbs 1:7*

Embrace Family Life as Liturgy

- ▶ Liturgy is how God works through the Church to heal the damage that sin does to our relationships and each other.
- ▶ Liturgy of the Domestic Church is not just prayer
- ▶ “Liturgy” is a public act of worship

The 3 R's of Liturgy

- ▶ The Liturgy of the Domestic Church life is composed of 3 Rites:



- ▶ Rite of Christian Relationship (Love)

- ▶ Equips families to practice sacrificial love that stands at the heart of the priestly mission of baptism in their interactions with each other and the world. Through the “Little way of Love” consecrating every activity a family is involved with to Christ.
- ▶ Helps families leave behind the selfish – and sometimes sinful – ways we treat each other and learn how to care for each other with the love of Christ. By living out Christ’s sacrificial love, this rite helps us practice the priestly mission of our baptism.
- ▶ *St. Therese of Lisieux has been a highly influential model of sanctity for Catholics and for others because of the simplicity and practicality of her approach to the spiritual life. Pope Pius X called her “the greatest saint of modern times”.*
- ▶ *Her parents - St. Louis and Zellie Martin*



The 3 R's of Liturgy

- ▶ Rite of Family Rituals (Connect)
- ▶ Equips families to live the prophetic mission of baptism by witnessing to the relationship Christians must have to work, leisure, relationships, and faith (work, play, talk, pray)

The 3 R's of Liturgy

- ▶ Rite of Reaching Out (Care)
- ▶ Equips families to live the royal mission of baptism by caring for each other and others - their community of faith - acts of charity
- ▶ It is the act of love and mercy families have with each other in the small day to day things
 - ▶ “To reign with Christ is to serve with Christ” LG 36
- ▶ The family is the original small faith group of family
 - ▶ Families can be holy in their own ways; they are on their own paths

How can a broken family be a Domestic Church?

- ▶ Teaching the families that when a family is connected to God and to each other through Sacramental grace and committed to living out the vision of trinitarian Christian Life with each other and the world.
- ▶ Domestic Church means;
The Domestic Church is a household of persons who are connected to each other and God through the Sacraments with the intention of living a Christ centered life.
The Church is rooted in God's grace who forms the Church.

Cultivating Family Spirituality Discussion Questions

The domestic Church is not a community of affinity but of kinship.

How would you explain this to parents within your parish?

How might it be good news to families to learn this?

What other practices for forming the church in its liturgical-sacramental vocation would you suggest?

Cultivating Family Spirituality

Resources/ References

- ▶ They Peyton Institute
- ▶ Our Sunday Visitor
- ▶ Familiaris Consortio
- ▶ The Family in the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- ▶ Catechism of the Catholic Church
- ▶ USCB
- ▶ Forming Families in Faith by Kathy Hendricks