

Creating the Future

May, 2015

“Marriage is meant to be fertile and welcome new life. Children shape the future, just as they themselves are shaped in their families. Without children, there can be no future. Children reared with love and guidance are the foundation for a loving future. Wounded children portend a wounded future. Families are the bedrock for all larger communities. Families are domestic churches, places where parents help children discover that God loves them and has a plan for each child’s life”



Deuteronomy 6:4-7

“Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God; the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you, today, in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.”

Section #11 of *Lumen Gentium* (the *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*) from the Second Vatican Council on the role of the family, tells us:

“The family is...the domestic church. In it parents should, by their word and example, be the first preachers of the faith to their children; they should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each of them, fostering with special care vocation to a sacred state.”

- It is within our families that we learn to be attentive to God so that we know to what vocation he is leading us – to marriage, to the priesthood/religious life or to a life of service as a single person.
- We can learn to be attentive to God by being attentive to other people - like our family members.

Parents help their children:

1. Learn to do things (e.g. walk, read, ride a bike)
2. Learn to interact with people (sharing, manners, taking turns, not making fun of others)
3. Learn to love (helping, doing works of service [cleaning, cooking, mowing the lawn], saying I’m sorry, forgiving, celebrating birthdays and graduations)
4. Learn how to love God (praying, going to Mass, loving what God loves, keeping the Commandments)

Prayer:

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me" (Jeremiah 29:11-14a).



Lord, we thank you that you love each one of us and have a plan for our lives. Help us to seek you with all of our hearts and help us to encourage our family members to seek you with all of their hearts. Lord, we love you, and want to love you more each day.



SUPPLEMENTAL RESOURCES

"Welcome Home: Your Family, the Catholic Church"

Lifeteen.com blog post by Michelle Neitzke

A clear explanation of the domestic church for teens.

Lighthouse Catholic Media offers many talks on CD and/or MP3 to help teenagers and their families to grow in faith.

Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) will send a free "audio talk of the week" by popular speakers to your inbox.

What is the World Meeting of Families?

The World Meeting of Families is a gathering of Catholic families from around the world for days of prayer, catechesis and celebration of the gift of the family.

We are preparing for the 8th World Meeting of Families which is the first to take place in the United States. It will be held in Philadelphia from September 22 – 27, 2015. All are encouraged to attend. Pope Francis will be attending.

God cares about us and about our future. One of the ways God cares for us is by giving us one another, especially our families. The World Meeting of Families (WMOF) was started by Saint John Paul II in 1994 as a way to strengthen and support families around the world.