

Building the Domestic Church



June

Because families play an important role in the new evangelization, we want to share our faith with other families.

Everyone — no matter their role or station in life — is called to holiness. As the saints have shown so well throughout history, holiness in life leads inevitably to witness in our daily lives. This witness is the primary way to evangelize in our time.

It is through living our lives as Catholic families, devoted to our faith, to each other and to helping those in need, that we best evangelize in a world that so often seems reluctant to hear this good news.

FAMILY PROJECT

Write down ideas for small sacrifices/offerings on individual pieces of paper. Place these in a small bowl. Every day, have each member of the family randomly select one piece of paper to offer the sacrifice listed for the intentions of a relative or friend. At the end of the month, each family member might send a note to the person for whom they made the offering, telling him or her about their prayers and sacrifices.

MEDITATIONS

From an address of Pope Benedict XVI to the Pontifical Council for the Family.

The new evangelization depends largely on the domestic church. ... The family is indeed the way of the Church because it is the "human space" of our encounter with Christ. Spouses "not only receive the love of Christ and become a saved community, but they are also called upon to communicate Christ's love to their brethren, thus becoming a saving community." The family founded on the sacrament of marriage is a particular realization of the Church ... called to welcome, radiate and show the world the love and presence of Christ.

The reception and transmission of divine love are realized in the mutual commitment of the spouses, in generous and responsible procreation, in the care and education of children, work and social relationships, with attention to the needy, in participation in church activities, in commitment to civil society. The Christian Family to the extent it succeeds in living love as communion and service as a reciprocal gift open to all, as a journey of permanent conversion supported by the grace of God, reflects the splendor of Christ in the world and the beauty of the divine Trinity.

1. How can our family better communicate Christ's presence to others in word and action, and thereby become a "saving community" that shares the love of Christ?
2. Remembering that the "new evangelization" is an evangelization which is not new in content but "new in ardor, methods and expression," what are some ways our family can "evangelize," and what truths might we express?
3. Why is family such an effective voice for things that matter?

Sam Gross

WV State Council

DD2, Family Activities Director