

Family Life – Living It Together

A draft reflection in progress....

What is Family?

Family of our **Origin** –
Family as our **Foundation** –
Family for our **Belonging** –
Family as **Apprenticeship** –
Family as a place of **Development** –
Family to help children to **Launch** –
Family as a point of our **Return** –

What does a Family do?

We care for one another.
We talk to each other.
We take and show interest in one another.
We get to know each other.
We relate to one another.
We enjoy each other's company.

How do Parents and Children grow their Family?

Parents date each other regularly and frequently.
Parents teach their children and form their characters for living and loving.
Parents mentor their children in all the life skills they can manage to show and pass on.
Families observe the Lord's Day Rest together – help each other pray, play, rest, and enter into leisure*.
Families pray together daily as well as at meals.
Families play together regularly and often.
Families do chores together.
Families worship together on the Lord's Day and on Solemnities of the Lord and special occasions.

What is God's Dream and Design for Family?

The Family composed of Husband / Father + Wife / Mother = Couple is a living image of the Holy Trinity.
The Couple is the fruitful heart of the Family – with the Creator they give life to others together.
The Creator makes the Couple fertile and fruitful to bear children or adopt children and nurture them.
The Family is a Domestic Church, a Home Church, the basic living cell of the Body of Christ and Society.
God reveals Himself to the Family members through each others' love, kindness, and forgiveness.
In loving others Family members come to know and love the Holy Trinity: Father, Son Jesus, and Holy Spirit.
It is in the Family that young and old discover that people are more precious than things because of love.

** Leisure is an attitude of mind, heart, soul, and spirit or psyche by which a person allows God to draw him or her into a contemplative stance of awe and wonder, simultaneously ever at rest and ever active, enjoying the great gift of living fully in the present moment, at peace with all that is past, looking to all that is ahead with trust and confidence in God, inhabited by hope and joy in the peace that comes from the complete assurance of being loved by a divine love, and empowered by divine love to love unconditionally in return.*