



Building The Domestic Church

The Family Fully Alive

MAY

Because in the beginning of creation God gave the commandment to work, we want to harmonize work and family life.

Through work, parents help fulfill their roles as guardians by providing for their families. Sometimes, job requirements may take parents away from their family. Such obligations, however, offer an opportunity for parents to set an example of commitment and teamwork.

Children can also learn through their own responsibilities. By sharing in chores and other work around the house, they learn how to be a part of a team and the satisfaction that comes with labor well done.

FAMILY PROJECT

Develop teamwork among your family members by working together to complete a project in your home, parish or community.

Create a garden or special location to place a statue of Mary, visit local cemeteries in spring to assist with a cleanup, or schedule a time to pray the rosary together as a family.

MEDITATIONS

From St. John Paul II's Redemptoris Custos.

Work was the daily expression of love in the life of the Family of Nazareth. The Gospel specifies the kind of work Joseph did in order to support his family: he was a carpenter. This simple word sums up Joseph's entire life. For Jesus, these were hidden years, the years to which Luke refers after recounting the episode that occurred in the Temple: "And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them" (Lk 2:51). This "submission" or obedience of Jesus in the house of Nazareth should be understood as a sharing in the work of Joseph. Having learned the work of his presumed father, he was known as "the carpenter's son." If the Family of Nazareth is an example and model for human families, in the order of salvation and holiness, so too, by analogy, is Jesus' work at the side of Joseph the carpenter.

1. How is work — whether outside employment, work in the home, care of children or even chores — a "daily expression of love" in our family? What makes it "true and authentic" or false and inauthentic?

2. In what ways is work a source of tension for our family? How can I resolve the tension and make my work a source of joy for the rest of the family? How can I work more lovingly?
3. Modeling Jesus' working with Joseph, how I can help others in our family with their responsibilities, or let them know that what they do matters?

Scripture Reading of the Month
Psalms 90: 1-2, 14-17

A prayer for God's intervention

LORD, you have been our refuge
through all generations.
Before the mountains were born,
the earth and the world brought forth,
from eternity to eternity you are God.
Fill us at daybreak with your mercy,
that all our days we may sing for joy.
Make us glad as many days as you humbled us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.
Show your deeds to your servants,
your glory to their children.
May the favor of the LORD our God be ours.
Prosper the work of our hands!
Prosper the work of our hands!

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