

12.11.2021

INTO THE BREACH #6 – MARRIAGE & FAMILY

Revitalizing Men's Family Role

We are being called as Men of Christ to embrace wholeheartedly masculine virtues in an imperfect and broken world. The gravity of our duty as Men of Christ, offers us an invitation to renew Christ-based Masculinity.



Today we will discuss Marriage & Family and how we play a role in that Blessing. There is a father absence crisis in America. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 18.3 million children, 1 in 4, live without a biological, step, or adoptive father in the home. Consequently, there is a Father Factor in nearly all social ills facing America today. "It is not money, but the family that is the foundation of public life," observed James Q. Wilson, a renowned professor of government at Harvard University. "As it has become weaker, every structure built upon that foundation has become weaker."

Those two statements are applicable in light of a new study from Johns Hopkins University sociologist Andrew Cherlin. He found that, over the past 25 years, non-marital childbearing has greatly increased among women of all educational levels, with the sharpest percentage increase among women who hold a bachelor's degree or higher.

Of that group, 24.5% of women who were between the ages of 32 and 38 in 2017-2018 were not married when they had their first child. In contrast, in 1996, only 4% of women in that age group were not married when they gave birth for the first time. (Compared to women of other educational levels, college-educated women were more likely to be married when they had their second child.)



Interestingly, 1996 was just four years after then-Vice President Dan Quayle was ridiculed for his "Murphy Brown" speech in which he criticized American culture's glamorization of single parenting, especially among highly educated women. Now, a couple of decades later, many sociologists from across the political spectrum agree with the former vice president. Unfortunately, the social trends Quayle recognized have resulted in the past quarter-century's six-fold explosion in unmarried mothers among college-educated women.

How do men feel about this? What does the battle for a Family's Soul entail? What are some of the key threats to healthy family life today? In what ways do some men "retreat from the battlefield altogether" in this struggle for family?

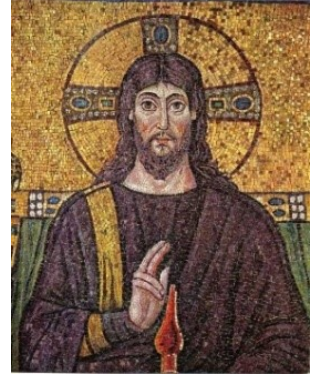
This morning we are going to view a video outlining what action is needed today to restore Family to its Scripture inspired position. May God Bless us and all men with the strength and energy to do what is needed to restore traditional Christian Family Values. Amen.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: <https://youtu.be/5-1fk5Eux34>

Holy Scripture

Genesis 1:27-28 – Male and Female He Created Them

God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth.



Deuteronomy 11:18-21 – Fidelity to God

Therefore, take these words of mine into your heart and soul. Bind them on your arm as a sign, and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Teach them to your children, speaking of them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up, and write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates, so that, as long as the heavens are above the earth, you and your children may live on in the land which the LORD swore to your ancestors he would give them.

The Word of the Lord

Catechism

CCC 2202 – The Family in God's Plan

A man and a woman united in marriage, together with their children, form a family. This institution is prior to any recognition by public authority, which has an obligation to recognize it. It should be considered the normal reference point by which the different forms of family relationship are to be evaluated.



Modern Comment

God's Role For Men in Family

Don Allen

Freedom

As I watched this month's video, it reminded me that the most important thing I will ever do is help get my family to heaven. Is there any alternative?



"As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live." Pope John Paul II

"A tired family is better than a hard-hearted one. I prefer a family with a tired face from sacrifices made rather than a pretty one which is unfamiliar with tenderness and compassion." Pope Francis, Mexico, 2016

Men, your presence and mission in the family is irreplaceable.
Let's look at How Men Can Make a Difference



Pray for your family. Make a commitment to pray for your family each and every day. Take time and make a Special Occasion to Bless your children.

Consecrate your wife and children to the Holy Mother and St Joseph.

Keep the Sabbath Holy. Attend Mass, as a family, setting the example for behavior on Sundays and Holy Days.

Regular use of the Holy Sacrament of Reconciliation is a Great Example of your Fidelity to God.

Make yourself relevant to your family:

Strive to keep a healthy balance between family involvement and work involvement.

Ask for forgiveness when appropriate:

It is easy to make misjudgments that can lead to anger, speaking unkindly to children and their mother, breaking promises or displaying some other bad example.

Protect children and grandchildren from our secular society:

Avoid exposure of young people to harmful social media, television and internet material.



Questions to Focus on:

1. Many fathers had to work long hours. Did this happen to your family? What can you do to help your children and grandchildren? Explain.

2. How much time is enough to spend with your family? How can you make more time for your family?



Men's Group Calendar

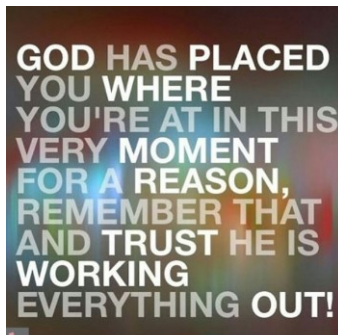
A Man who never quits is Never Defeated. We are ordinary men who labor for Christ.

12/17/2021	Leadership Meet	9:30 AM Meeting Room 1
1/8/2022	MEN'S GROUP	7 AM Mass
1/21/2022	Leadership Meet	9:30 AM Meeting Room 1
2/12/2022	MEN'S GROUP	7 AM Mass

NOTE: A Rosary starts in the Reservation Chapel immediately following the meeting.

The Memorare

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we unto fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do we come; before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer us. Amen.



Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruination of souls. Amen.



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to Bless my family, friends and those who I meet on this path. Give them your Joy, Peace and Mercy. Where there is doubt, release in them renewed confidence in the Holy Spirit. Fill their every need with your Holy Grace.

**You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior.
Amen. And AMEN.**



Ephesians 6:13. So put on all the armour that God gives. Then when that evil day comes, you will be able to defend yourself. And when the battle is over, you will still be standing firm.



Church of the Nativity
Bethlehem, Israel 2017

Foregiveness is a Gift that we give first to ourselves then to the other.
Jesus wants us to make choices that reflect His presence in our hearts.
Life constantly presents us with opportunities to choose to love & serve one another.
It is not about us, it is about reaching out in love.
Go to the Author of Life.
Go to the Sacraments of Confession & Communion often.

