

Reflections

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Our Home, A Shrine

God is an omnipresent God, He lives and is active everywhere. But He also wants to be close to every human being, He wants to be Father to each one of his children. He then selects not only certain persons, but also certain places through which He wants to be near us. Our home should be one of those holy places where He – through the Virgin – acts in an extraordinary way. God and Mary want to be very close to us, their children.

If we strive for sanctity, the Virgin establishes herself in our home. She begins to act there and from there, in an extraordinary way. She bestows her Motherly love, She distributes her graces and works all kinds of miracles in the home. She acts just as She did with the married couple at Cana, with the Apostles at the Cenacle or with Elizabeth at the hour of the Visitation. She no sooner arrives at the home of Elizabeth when miracles of grace occur: the child leaps in the womb of his mother, Elizabeth begins to prophesy, Zacariah recovers his speech.

What graces can we expect in our Home Shrine? Let us not forget that God gives us the right to receive the graces we need.

Let us think, for example, of our children: What little influence we have on our children! How often do we not feel our limitations as parents and educators! How often do they not rebel against us, and we do not know what to do with them! How often does it not seem to us impossible to educate them correctly! And let us not forget that we are responsible for our children until our death, also when they are adults, when they have their own families. And if they no longer allow themselves to be counseled by us, we should at least pray for them in our Home Shrine.

Or let us think of ourselves as a couple, in our difficulties with understanding and accepting each other mutually... in our problems with dialoguing... in our opposing interests.

Let us also recall our limitations and personal weaknesses, character flaws and temperaments.

Also, when we get older, new idiosyncracies or whims appear; and it can be that they surpass the 20 fads which are still acceptable. So much more do we need the graces, especially the grace of inner transformation.

The Virgin Mary assumes the responsibility for creating a small paradise in our families. She wants to form and educate our families as a reflection of her own family, the Nazareth Family. What characteristics does that ideal family have, that paradise family? The Virgin wants to create in our homes a paradise of love: paternal love, childlike love, love for God and for Mary, love for brothers and sisters. And She also wants to convert our family into a paradise of purity, joy, and freedom. Truth and justice should reign there, the spirit of striving and victory.

Thus the Virgin wants to make our home a Shrine, a marvelous land, a shining Tabor where She manifests her glory and bestows unlimited fruitfulness. In other words, the Blessed Virgin aspires to forge in each one of our families a small kingdom of God.

But all of this is impossible without miracles of grace, without a divine eruption in our lives, in our homes. All this is impossible if the Virgin does not reign in the midst of our families, in the heart of her chosen children. And it is impossible if we do not do our part, if we do not strive daily, if we arrive with empty hands at our place of grace. But if we do it, we can count on miracles and graces without measure.

Questions for reflection

1. Is my home a Shrine?
2. Have I had my home blessed?
3. How can I increase life in my home?

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