

Reflections

Father Nicolas Schwizer

185 – October 1st, 2016

Magisterial Function of the Family

In the epoch of the first Christians, all church life developed in the homes, since there were no temples of their own. The entire family would convert and form part of the Church. Today we are again aware of this very important reality. Through baptism and the sacrament of marriage, Christ himself is present in each Christian home and from there fulfills his task of salvation: He heals, blesses, transforms, guides and educates his people in his way of Salvation.

In the document LUMEN GENTIUM of the Second Vatican Council, we read: “in this species of domestic Church, the parents should be for the children the first preachers of the faith through word and example and should foster the sacred vocation.”

Our first church experience is our own home. There we learn to believe, to love God and mankind, there we develop as persons. In the heart of the home we find God who dwells in our midst. Through baptism, we participate in the prophetic, priestly and royal mission of Christ; through the sacrament of marriage, we do it as a couple, and Christ himself acts through us sanctifying our family. Both the father and the mother participate in the magisterium, the priesthood and the ministry of Christ. They are the first catechists, formers of the Christian faith.

The Church, in her **magisterial** function, has the mission to transmit the faith, to keep watch over the traditions and truths of the Church. Christ has revealed to us the truth about the Father and has shown us the meaning of man himself.

This has been secured for centuries through traditions which cultivated and helped bring to life said Christian truths. It is our task as families “**to keep watch**” so that our children can grow in said tradition and be able to continue it. Today more than ever, we need clarity in regard to the truths and Christian customs since our children are constantly bombarded by a secular and too little Christian environment.

We want to be catechists, educators in Christian values and customs for our children. The question then emerges on how much time to we dedicate to our catechetical formation. What is not known, is not experienced and then cannot be taught.

A great problem in Latin America is religious ignorance. This has provoked the proliferation of innumerable Christian sects and non-Christian ones which slowly undermine our faith. Jewish families were accustomed to living in the diaspora. It has a fundamental role in the transmittance of the faith. It would be very good for us as a marriage to take our catechism and begin to read together the parts which most interest us. It would have to transform itself into our “kill the dummies.”

We could also ask ourselves how we cultivate our love for the Church in our home: reading the Word of God, our conversations regarding the faith, how we take advantage of the periods of catechesis for our children’s confirmation and first communion. Our challenge is to conquer what has been inherited. We have to take to the new shores what our grandparents left us as a legacy. What were we bequeathed? What you have inherited from your parents, conquer it so that you can thus truly possess it.

May those valuable assets of the Catholic faith become our intimate possession; on the contrary, nothing will be secure in us nor in our family, nor will we be prepared against the worldly and demonic spirit!

Questions for reflection

1. How do we accompany our children in their preparation for first communion and confirmation?
2. As a family, do we cultivate Christian traditions?

If you wish to subscribe, comment on the text or give your testimony, write to: pn.reflexiones@gmail.com
Translation: Carlos Cantú, Schoenstatt Family Federation, La Feria, Texas USA 09062016
cantu_carlos@hotmail.com