

## Catechist Ministry Day Outline and a few Resources

### *The Human Family: An Icon of the Divine Family*

- 1- What does it mean to speak of an Icon as an image?
- 2- Story of Kolbe
  - a. Imaging God in acts of service...but how else?...where else?
- 3- The Divine family: A biblical vision
  - a. “let there be”...
  - b. “let us make”... “Divine We”
    - i. Two become one to create a third...a reflection of the trinity
  - c. JPII quote in Central America: *“God is not a solitude, but family, because in himself he has fatherhood, sonship, and the essence of family in the Holy Spirit”*. The family is at the heart of society because God as family is the first society—a society of persons.
- 4- The family as the dominant motif in the life of Christ:
  - a. Christ’s emphasis on the family:  
Father/son/brother/sister/mother/children/home/firstborn/inheritance/marriage/birth...Abba
  - b. The holy family: 30 years...
  - c. Public Ministry: 3 years...
    - i. Wedding feast...sanctifies marriage
- 5-What makes marriage the Sacrament of Love? When it becomes a sacrament of self-offering for the sake of the family.
  - a. Phil.2:6-11: In this passage, we gain insight into the life of the Trinity...a hook from which we can hang our vocation in family life upon.
    - i. This Christological hymn offers for us a profound insight into the life of the Trinity...acceptance of the Father’s will leads us to the cross—the total gift of self. Dying to self to give life to the family...the Church as the family of God
      - a. Rom.12:1-3: We are called to put to death the deeds of the flesh...that our senses give glory to God in the concreteness of everyday life in all of its particularity (John Paul II)... this entails a life of communion with God
  - b. 1 Thess.5:17: pray constantly...the duty of the moment becomes the sacramental moment (every moment is pregnant...) A family that prays together stays together...yes and the family that prays together grows together when we allow our formal prayer to envelop every aspect of our everyday life.
    - i. St. Therese: God lives in the detail...sweat the small stuff...Lk.19:7: “faithful in all that is little”
  - c. The two in the process of becoming three, four, five, etc...have to constantly let go of self and surrender for the greater good of the family.
    - i. To become less is to possess more. When the gift of self becomes the identity of the family is the day when God dwells in your family.
      - a. The call to live in austerity and in turn solidarity with the body of Christ.

- b. The family begins to speak the language of God fluently and leave footprints towards the trinity when we love God with an all consuming love: heart, mind, soul, body, and strength.

\*\*\* This brings us to the departure point for the New Evangelization

6-Family and the new evangelization:

- a. Vatican II and the universal call to holiness
- b. The new man and sacrifice
- c. interior attitude of faith...share story.

7-We are called to offer up that most precious gift of time in our prayer and walk with God.

### *Resources*

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

-The Family in God's Plan, 2201-03

**-The Family as the Image of the Trinity, 2205**

-The Family as the Domestic Church, 1655-58, 1666, 2685

-The Family and its role in society, 2204-2213

-The Family and the Kingdom, 2232-33

-The Family and Prayer, 2183, 2685, 2691, 2834

-The Call to Conversion, 160, 545, 981, 1036, 1428, 1439, **1886-1889**

**John Paul II.** Apostolic Exhortation: *Familiaris Consortio*, (*The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World*). November 22, 1981. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1981.

**-Apostolic Letter: *Letter to the Families*. February 2, 1994. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994.**

--Homily: *To Palafax Major Seminary*. January, 28, 1979. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana. January 28, 1979.

--Angelus address: *On the Feast of the Holy Family*. December 29, 2002. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2002.

--Apostolic Exhortation: *Christifideles Laici (On the Role of the Lay faithful)*. December 30, 1988. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1988.

--Encyclical letter: *Redemptoris Missio (The Mission of the Redeemer)*. December 7, 1990. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1990.

--Apostolic Letter, *Tertio Millennio Adveniente (Preparation for Jubilee of the Year 2000)*. November 10, 1994. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994.

Hahn, Scott. *First Comes Love: Finding Your Family in the Church and the Trinity*. Doubleday: New York, 2001.

Anderson, Carl. *A Civilization of Love: What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World*. HarperOne: New York, 2008.

--*Called to Love: Approaching John Paul II's Theology of the Body*. Doubleday: New York, 2009.

Cantalamessa, Fr. Raniero. *Contemplating the Trinity: The Path to Abundant Christian Life*. The Word Among Us: Maryland, 2007.

**Aquilina, Mike. *Love in Little Things*. Servant Publications: Ann Arbor Michigan, 2007.**

\*\*\* For other books and resources on the family and Christian marriage go to the following website: <http://www.frcoulter.com/marriage/books.html#cath>. This website is very thorough in its inventory directing you to excellent articles, journals, etc...