

# HOLY HEARTS AND HOMES

“NOW THE COMPANY OF THOSE WHO BELIEVED WERE OF ONE HEART AND SOUL, AND NO ONE SAID THAT ANY OF THE THINGS WHICH HE POSSESSED WAS HIS OWN, BUT THEY HAD EVERYTHING IN COMMON.” ACTS 4:32

## What is my mission?

BY: BRIDGET HEIER

Do you have a desire to grow in your faith? Do you have a hard time sharing your faith with others: your family, friends or co-workers? Can it be fun and easy to teach the faith to your kids or grandkids?

The purpose of this monthly newsletter is to help provide resources, activities, and nuggets of truth and goodness that will help us better live out the great commission:

*And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”*  
Matthew 28: 18-20

How are you currently living out the great commission? I feel as though I fail at this many days, but God invites me to start each day new and in His love. If we go on mission together, growing our families and those with whom God has entrusted us, how many more might we bring to know Jesus in a deeper and more personal way?

Living in a post-Christian society it is easy to feel lost or alone. The apostles must have felt this as well when Jesus sent them on mission. But, they went and they shared and it was through families that Christianity was spread. We are called to do the same. As Jesus said, “...behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”



During his visit to the Philippines, Pope Francis cited the need for “holy and loving families to protect the beauty and truth of the family in God’s plan and to be an example for other families.”

POPE FRANCIS, ADDRESS TO FAMILIES AT THE MALL OF ASIA ARENA, 2015

# *Domestic Church: What is my role?*

What is God calling us to do with our lives and how is He calling us to live? First, God calls us into a deep and loving union with Him. He always wants His sons and daughters to be close to Him. We are also called to live out our faith daily, especially as an example to those whom God has asked us to care for. My primary role is to love God with my entire soul, mind and body by keeping the commandments and participating in the sacraments. My secondary role is to help my husband and children make it to heaven. But, how do I do this? The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) provides us insight and an understanding.

*CCC 1655: Christ chose to be born and grow up in the bosom of the holy family of Joseph and Mary. The Church is nothing other than “the family of God.”...These families who became believers were islands of Christian life in an unbelieving world.*

## *Liturgical Living In Brief:*

“The calendar of the Catholic Church has, for centuries, set a rhythm for the year for the faithful. Entire towns would fast together and feast together. Somewhere along the way, we have lost that cultural inheritance”.--Excerpt from the book *The Catholic All Year Compendium* by Kendra Tierney

God wants our families to reflect the Holy Family. For this reason, the Second Vatican Council, using an ancient expression, calls the family the *Ecclesia domestica* (Domestic Church).

What is the Domestic Church?  
*CCC 1666: The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called “the domestic church,” a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity.*

Take time to evaluate, what are the positives of your domestic church? Where could small changes be made to better reflect the Holy Family?

*“Go forward bravely. Fear nothing. Trust in God; all will be well”.*  
--Saint Joan of Arc

How do you as a family celebrate different feast days, Saint days, and other important events of the Catholic faith? In the upcoming monthly newsletters, we hope to share ideas for all age groups with a variety of ways to live liturgically in our homes.

*“Working, or stay-at-home, homeschooling or brick-and-mortar, rich or poor, big or small--no matter what terms apply to you and your family, you can bring a bit of tradition of our beautiful faith into your home”.*--Tierney

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58



May 13th is the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima. Want to know more about Our Lady of Fatima? Check out this quick episode on the Shining Light Dolls Podcast: Ep. 18- [Our Lady of Fatima](#)

You can find the podcast on Apple, Soundcloud, and Spotify.