



## WHAT MAKES A FAMILY

### “The Christian family

“The Christian family constitutes a specific revelation and realization of ecclesial communion, and for this reason it can and should be called a *domestic church*.<sup>9</sup> It is a community of faith, hope, and charity; it assumes singular importance in the Church, as is evident in the New Testament.<sup>10</sup>” *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)* 2204

“The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. In the procreation and education of children it reflects the Father’s work of creation. It is called to partake of the prayer and sacrifice of Christ. Daily prayer and the reading of the Word of God strengthen it in charity. The Christian family has an evangelizing and missionary task.” *CCC* 2205

The relationships within the family bring an affinity of feelings, affections and interests, arising above all from the members’ respect for one another. The family is a *privileged community* called to achieve a “sharing of thought and common deliberation by the spouses as well as their eager cooperation as parents in the children’s upbringing.”<sup>11</sup>  
*CCC* 2206

“The family is the *original cell of social life*. It is the natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and in the gift of life. Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society. The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honor God, and make good use of freedom. Family life is an initiation into life in society.” *CCC* 2207

<sup>9</sup> *FC* 21; cf. *LG* 11.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. *Eph* 5:21-6:4; *Col* 3:18-21; *1 Pet* 3:1-7.

<sup>11</sup> *GS* 52 § 1.

For more about families, continue reading  
the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* through Paragraph 2233.

# What Did You Learn About What Makes a Family?

for younger saints

1. What can human families do that animal families cannot do?
  - a. love each other
  - b. take care of each other
  - c. live together
2. Who were the first parents created by God?
  - a. Joseph and Mary
  - b. Jacob and Rachel
  - c. Adam and Eve
3. In God's plan, a family starts with which sacrament?
  - a. Communion
  - b. Matrimony
  - c. Reconciliation
4. Which commandment tells us to "honor your father and mother"?
  - a. the second commandment
  - b. the fourth commandment
  - c. the sixth commandment
5. Honoring your parents includes
  - a. respecting them.
  - b. obeying them.
  - c. helping them.
6. When we obey our parents, we are also obeying
  - a. God.
  - b. our teacher.
  - c. our friends.
7. Recite your memory prayer.

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## Quiz Answers

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7. Recite your memory prayer.

○ my God, I love you above all things, with my whole heart and soul.

# What Did You Learn About What Makes a Family?

for older saints

1. Honoring your parents includes
  - a. respect and obedience.
  - b. gratitude and assistance.
  - c. faith and hope.
2. What can human parents do that animal parents cannot do?
  - a. love their babies
  - b. take care of their babies
  - c. live with their babies
3. By having children, a married couple is
  - a. fulfilling a promise made at their wedding.
  - b. sharing their love with others.
  - c. cooperating with God in His creative work.
4. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that honoring our parents will
  - a. make family life peaceful and better for everyone.
  - b. help you to earn a bigger allowance.
5. Which commandment tells you to “honor your father and mother”?
  - a. the second
  - b. the fourth
  - c. the sixth
6. Family life can make you more holy by
  - a. teaching you that others need to sacrifice for you.
  - b. teaching you to think of your own needs first.
  - c. teaching you patience.
7. What are two ways that a family is an image of the Trinity?
8. How is your family like a miniature version of the Church?
9. Recite your memory prayer.

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7. What are two ways that a family is an image of the Trinity?

A father, mother, and children form one unit with three parts. The Trinity and a family are each linked together by love.

8. How is your family like a miniature version of the Church?

Answers may vary. (Refer to "The Domestic Church" section of the lesson.)

9. Recite your memory prayer.

**Act of Love.** O my God, I love You above all things, with my whole heart and soul, because You are all-good and worthy of all my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of You. I forgive all who have injured me, and I ask pardon of all whom I have injured. Amen.