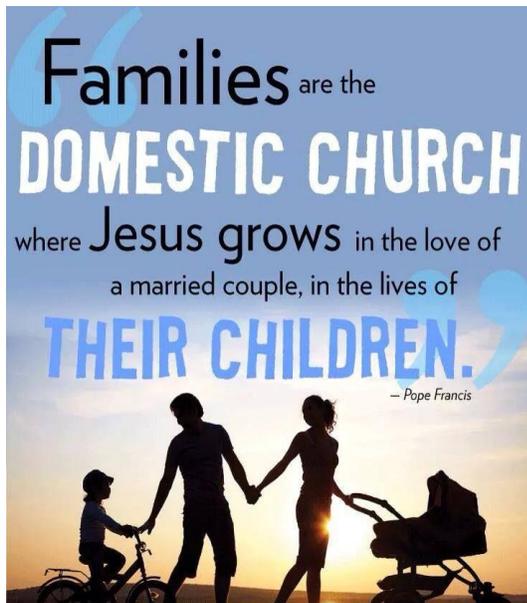




2018/2019



The home of the Catholic Christian family is an extension of the Liturgy; making our homes a *'little church'*. The home is where we live out our Catholic faith and identity in between the times when we are worshipping in church. The heart of the home reflects Jesus' precepts of living out the Christian life by loving God and loving our neighbor. (Matt 22:37-39) At the center of loving God is the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist in Liturgy. At the center of loving neighbor is the faith built up in the home and carried outward.

Creating a spiritual space or a *'little oratory'* in the home where the faith can be taught, prayed and lived gives the family a means by which to remember God and to share his love within the family structure. When families are centered in Christ, each member will take him wherever they go. A

person who is nourished both body and soul at Church **and** at home is equipped to bring Christ's grace out into the world. The spiritual renewal in Christ that happens in Sacred Liturgy can be communicated through the persons in the family and through each moment, activity and relationship. This is the *Word* that gets carried out to the communities of which we are a part.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, 'in our own time, a world often alien and even hostile to faith, believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith. It is in the bosom of the family that parents are "by word and example...the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children. They should encourage them in the vocation which is proper to each child, fostering with special care any religious vocation."' (CCC1656)

