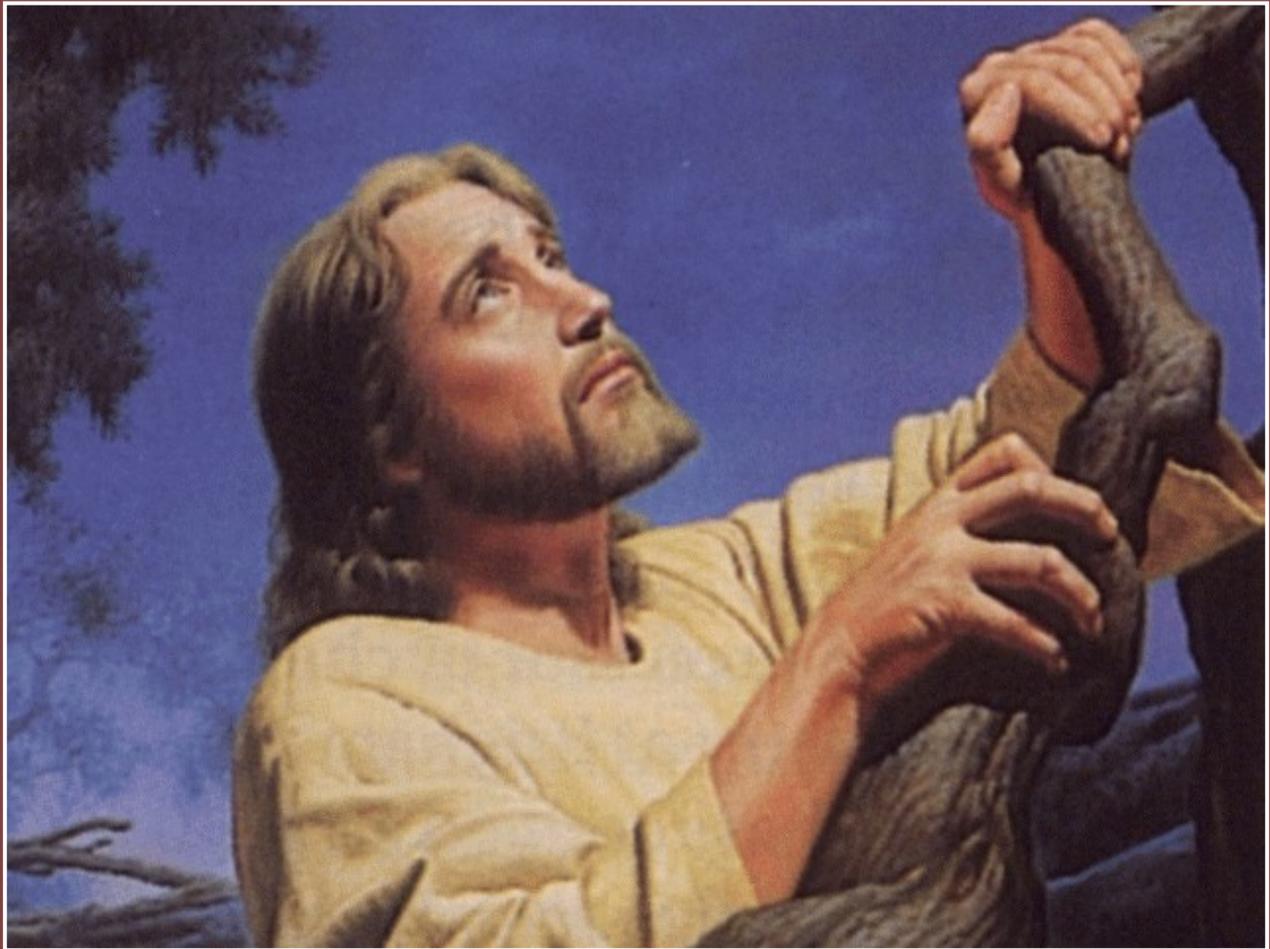


Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

September 2011 Issue 12 Volume 1

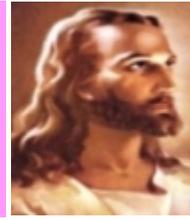
(Not For Sale)



“ He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.”

(Ephesians1:4)

BLESSINGS OF GOD BE YOURS...



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

" Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, until the destroying storms pass by." (Psalms57:1)

Lord God ! I praise You. You who are Pure and all Holy ! I glorify You and bow down in adoration before You. Lord God I fall at Your Feet in supplication. O Lord ! I take shelter in You and place my family at Your Feet. O God! Have mercy on me. Turn Your merciful glance towards me.

Lord You who taught us to pray in order to deliver us from all evil ! To You alone do I come . Lord ! You know all that happens within my family, all the troubles that we go through !

The sudden bouts of fights, anger, hatred, wild behaviour, hurtful words all these shake and destroy the peace within the family! Lord ! I don't have peace !



Preserve us Lord, from the snares and from the crafty designs and temptations of the evil one. Lord! You are my shelter ! O Magnificent God !Have pity on me. Wash away all my iniquities and do all that I stand in need of. Lord save my family. Lord! You who are my shelter and refuge ! I trust in You alone. I Thank You for fulfilling everything victoriously for me! Lord I wait on You! ThankYou ! I wait in longing for You! I Thank You ! AMEN ! ALLELUIA !

Fr. V. Ignatius. S. J.

BELOVED IN CHRIST...



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

**“ He chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.”
(Ephesians1:4)**



My beloved in Christ ! Holiness is an attribute solely meant for God ! God is an embodiment of perfection devoid of any king of want or deformity! That is why God is different from all created things. There is nothing or none that is equal to Him. Although we are mere creatures moulded by God and cannot be pure and whole as God is, yet we are called to participate in God's holiness and wholeness.

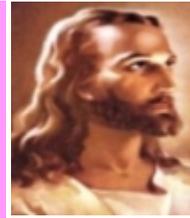
An iron rod that falls into the fire takes on the nature of the burning fire. A person who falls into the fire of God's Love, becomes one with Him and participates in His attribute. But the farther we are away from His love, to that extent do we linger in the dark, unable to participate in His divinity. How ever clever human beings may grow in scientific knowledge and in worldly thinking, but when they are bereft of faith in God and do not participate in His love by considering the worldly pleasures as their sole aim, and selfishness as their pinnacle of glory, and walk in that way, then such a person will be very far away from God. This is the sin that taints man's heart. The state of losing God is likened to the darkened iron rod.

This darkness will blemish man's heart. Selfishness and worldly attractions will alienate and separate the heart from God. This will not allow one to function with God. “ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned.” (John 15:5-6) Our call is pure and is precious! We have been called to live with God, to participate in His nature and to walk toward holiness.

Read and meditate on the message given by our Blessed Mother at Medjugorje in the month of July. We have been called so that our deepest thoughts, our wishes our actions may be spotless and pure, and thus to live as people who belong to God, by standing far away from sin, and by living as God's witnesses. I wish you Joy.

Fr. V. Ignatius. S.J.

MARRIAGE AS A SACRAMENT



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

HOW ARE THE TEACHINGS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REGARDING MARRIAGE AS A SACRAMENT , A GUIDE TO THE PROBLEMS FACED IN THE FAMILIES TODAY?

The changing face of today's generation !

In this modern age, when scientific know-how and technical developments have seen a mammoth growth, the human race is undergoing great changes in its thinking, practical deeds and actions. The days when the Church preached that man-woman should not have sexual intercourse is fast receding to a mere historical fact. There are parents even in our own country who emphasise the need for sexual education for their children even when they are still in school. The habits and customs of the western countries is fast catching on as a fashion among the youth of our country.

The practice that only the parents should choose the partner in marriage is giving way to each one choosing the partner of their own choice. In such a situation, young men and women , even before they get their marriage blest in the Church or in a Register office, begin behaving and living together as husband and wife. They only don't beget children ! Those with heavy pay packets and those with advanced technical knowledge, possess the mentality to take decisions according to their whims.

There is a growing impression that the traditional teachings of the Church are meant only for the uneducated ! Some people think that the teachings of the Church are not in accordance with the youth of today and that the Church has yet not been enlightened according to the demands of the day.

Ostriches that bury their heads in sand...

In such a changing scenario, doubts and questions arise in the hearts of several people, problems are on the rise in families and don't seem to diminish. Traditional teachings seem to increase the troubles and not solve them. The traditional principle that they should have one woman for a man, and one man for a woman was relevant for the villages of ancient times. But it poses a big problem for the city dwellers. The husband works in an IT firm. The wife works in another company.

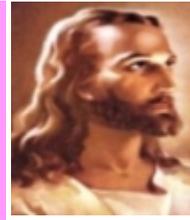
Both maintain relationships with those working along with them.

They develop social relationships in the name of 'party friendships.'

The 'concept' that they should be loyal and true to one another is an obstacle to maintain these relationships. They are most willing to do some modifications and deal with it as a 'project'. They think that they should behave in a practical manner.



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They resolve to have a partner according to the situation and according to the different times. Like timely snacks for a break.

For instance a person married few weeks ago just received an e-mail from his work place.

“My love ! I wish to hug you.” And the married woman replied, “ My life ! Come hug me.” Somehow her husband chanced to read the e-mail. You can imagine what ensued thereafter.

It is in such situations that the teachings of the Church prick one’s conscience. Each one’s ego stands as a hinderance in the way of accepting the truth. The teachings of the Church irritate them. They wish that these teachings of the Church should never exist! They say that there are innumerable ostriches in the deserts of Australia. When the hunter chases them, it is said that the ones that are running ahead bury and hide their heads in sand. When they hide their eyes and head in the hand , will the hunter too get lost?

“Will the earth grow dim if the cat shuts its eyes?” When they say that they do not want the teachings of the Church, then will all the evil turn to good? If they say that there is no God at all, then will it be so?

A doctor who shunned the teachings of the Church...

One fine day while I was ministering in a parish church in Germany, I heard the calling bell to my room ringing continuously and I answered the call. A lady was standing at the door. She was around 55 years old, a doctor, and a surgeon. I asked her to be seated. She had worked as doctor in Germany for more than twenty five years. As soon as I asked her, “ Why have you come in search of me?”, she began shivering and started crying, shedding tears profusely. After a while as her sobs subsided , she revealed certain truths about her self. She stated that she was a Christian , that she opposed , “ No to abortion” preached by the Church, hence she did not pay heed to the teachings of the Pope and Bishops, she did not go to the Church on Sundays, and as a symbolic gesture of deferring from the teachings of the Church she went about “killing babies “ by aborting for several young ladies for the past twenty five years. So saying she sobbed uncontrollably.

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Both the hands of the doctor were shivering continually. All the ten fingers, were affected with nervous disorder, had shrunk within and were bent. She asked pardon sobbing.

“Although I had forsaken the teachings of the Church for the past twenty five years, yet the Church remained within my heart as a hidden conscience. Although I knew deep within that being an instrument of abortion was wrong, yet unwilling to accept the truth, I went about committing sin in the name of revolutionary modernization. I need forgiveness ! I shall be healed if you pray!”, she pleaded.

I too counseled her giving her some words of consolation. I prayed that her inner wounds be healed. Within a few minutes, the shivering in her body ceased. The fingers that were bent in straightened up.



The thoughts and actions of this doctor, together with the teachings of the Church that lay dimmed and dormant within her conscience, shone as precious gold that day. Her spiritual feelings shone out like a long lost and hidden gold coin in sand. Even when the teachings of the Church are completely shunned, the teachings of the Church do not get destroyed or get lost in oblivion!

The manner in which the surgeon from Germany got healed and the troubles that the lady shared with me, made me think very deep for several days. The way she shared her inner hurt feelings, my counseling and the little prayer that I said for her, brought about her healing. But some questions too arose in my mind.

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JUST BECAUSE ONE IS A DOCTOR CAN ONE BE AN INSTRUMENT AND INSTIGATE ABORTION? WILL SUCH AN ACTION BE PLEASING IN THE EYES OF GOD? WHAT IS THE TEACHING OF THE CHURCH? IS THE CONSCIENCE OF THE DOCTOR ANY DIFFERENT FROM THE CONSCIENCE OF THE COMMON MAN?

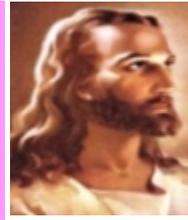
The way this doctor shared her experiences and troubles with me, and the manner she got freed from the inner hurt feelings was indeed a lesson for me. It became clear to me, that she who had benumbed her conscience for more than twenty five years , who had aborted several babies and was also being instrumental in killing them , was in fact carrying a huge burden in her heart. Although exteriorly she wore the garb of a revolutionary modernist, yet in the deep recesses of her mind she was carrying an untellable heavy burden.

The voice of conscience kept repeating and reverberating itself, “ Shunning the teachings of the Church is equal to shunning the teachings of God Himself.” AS THE CONSCIENCE GOT SUBDUED AND SUBMERGED, , SHE HAD NERVOUS WEAKNESS. SHE WAS EVEN UNABLE TO CONTINUE WITH HER MEDICAL PROFESSION. Several such medical doctors would have benumbed their consciences and played havoc in the lives of innumerable women.

LIKE THE DAYS OF YORE, EVEN TODAY, THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH REVOLVE AROUND THE SOLE DOMAIN OF LETTING US KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT IN THE EYES OF GOD. ALTHOUGH THE SITUATIONS AND THE SOCIETY HAVE UNDERGONE DRASTIC CHANGES, YET THE TRUTH UNDERLYING MARRIAGE AS A SACRAMENT , AND THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH IN THIS REGARD, STILL REMAIN UNCHANGED.

Marriage is not only about the husband and wife coming together. But to live as strong witnesses before Christ and the Church, to live as ministers of the relationship of a divine union, and to lead exemplary lives as witnesses to the purity of the Church and to the sacrifice of Christ. And this is the teaching of the Church.

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When the marital relationship attains fruition, with love and sacrifice as a channel of grace in the divine plan of God, then even the child born of their union is a sign of the divine promise. The Life born on the earth belongs solely to God. It is entrusted to the parents. From the time of its conception by the mother in the womb, the life is human life and nothing degrading.

It is our duty to safeguard and preserve life! What right do we have to destroy or cause any blemish to it? That is why the Church teaches us that abortion is not accepted or pleasing in the eyes of God. Hence, keeping away from situations that might cause us to sin is the basis of family discipline.

THE CATHOLIC DOCTRINES (BOOKS OF PRINCIPLES)

The fast changing societal outlooks, scientific knowledge, and the varied propagation through the media have affected our younger generation and the families to a very great extent !

Hence the teachings of the Catholic Church have during the last 50 years been published as International Educational Books comprising the compilation of its various principles. In this regard, we show pointers to some of the important books of principles written for the general public, the learned, the preachers of religions or leaders and political leaders, rulers.

1. Catechesi Tradendae (Catechesis in our time) No:68, The Second Vatican Council lays great emphasis on the importance of family education. The way in which a family is formed, the manner in which it grows, is not sufficient to be taught in general catechism, instead a separate time and place should be allotted to teach this indelible and important truth. We should teach how faith formation functions in the discipline of family life. Parents by their faith and living a witnessing life, should assume the role of teachers and teach their wards the messages of the Good News. It is a fact that the Christian faith and practical disciplinary methods cohabit in a family set-up. The Children learn from their parents that these family disciplinary measures grow in love from the cradle to the grave.

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2. Gravissimum Educationis (Declaration on Christian Education)No:3. The parents have given life to the children. Hence it is indispensable and a bound duty to give their children a standard education. They should be the foremost teachers par excellence. The various rules of conduct and criteria for discernment that should be followed by the children personally and in the societal relationships should be taught to the children based on the Christian faith.

The knowledge of God, the faith that we receive through Baptism, and the love that we learn from the various forms of worship will be learnt by the children from their parents as experience within their family. This experience not only reflects itself in the societal relationships, besides shaping up our Christian family life , it also leads the people of God in a path of growth toward holiness.

PASTORAL CONSTITUTION ON THE CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD

Gaudium et Spes

PROMULGATED BY
HIS HOLINESS, POPE PAUL VI
ON DECEMBER 7, 1965

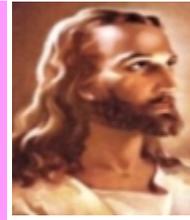


DOCUMENTS OF VATICAN II

3. Gaudium et spes (The Church in the Modern world)No:52, of the Vatican document states that the family is the best school of the human race. In order that life blossom in this school , it is very essential that the husband and wife live in unison, in a relationship bound by love, with the contribution and co-operation of the two of them in a continual basis.

The presence of the father and the understanding loving embrace of the mother are indispensable for the wholesome growth of the children. Giving birth to children is the right of the parents. Similarly, it is also their right and their duty to bring them up in the right way and to teach them. When the children have attained the status of maturity, they should discern whether their calling is for the married life or for a priestly or religious life, with the guidance of the parents. The advice and guidance of the parents is of immense help while selecting a life partner in married life. So too when one is interested in a religious or priestly life , the parents weigh the pros and cons of the thinking of their children and will thus aid in the strong and special call of God.

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Lumen Gentium On the Church



Introduction by
CARDINAL PAUL POUPARD
PRESIDENT OF THE PONTIFICAL
COUNCIL FOR CULTURE
Vatican Council II

4. Lumen Gentium (Dogmatic constitution on the Church) The basic principles of the Church published by The Vatican Council , Document No:11 and 35: **FAMILY IS A HOUSEHOLD CHURCH ! FAMILY IS THE CHURCH IN MINIATURE. HERE THE PARENTS ARE THE SOLE PREACHERS WHO IGNITE THE SPARK OF FAITH IN THE HEARTS OF THE CHILDREN. THEIR WORDS AND ACTIONS SPEAK ALOUD TO THE CHILDREN.**

The parents should encourage the children in such a way that they are drawn towards the religious or priestly life as God's call.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHOULD SPREAD IN ALL ASPECTS OF FAMILY LIFE.THEN THE FAMILY WILL FUNCTION AS THE LAITY'S SERVICE FIELD FOR THE SPREAD OF THE GOOD NEWS. IN THIS MANNER THE HUSBAND AND THE WIFE WILL PROVE TO BE THE WITNESSES OF CHRISTIAN FAITH AND LOVE TO THE CHILDREN.

Such a family not only, bears witness to the present nature of the Kingdom of God and the New life that is yet to come, but they also proclaim to the world what sin is and what Truth is.

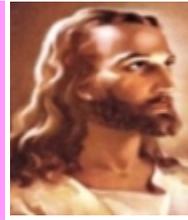
5. General Directory for Catechesis

A General Directory for Catechesis published by the Church. It is a very useful book for the Bishops, priest, teachers and other responsible people for referential purposes and to teach Catechism. But when we read especially sections 179, 226, 227 and 225 we come to know the importance of married life and the basic necessity for education within a family. The concern and respect that the parents show the children within a family not only fills them with joy, but also encourages them in their spiritual growth. The divine experiences that they undergo when young makes their future bright and fertile.

Through the sacrament of marriage the parents are invested with the special divine gift of teaching catechism and of performing the Ministry of spreading the Good News. In this manner a family becomes a Home Church. **THE GENERAL DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS 1997** published by the catholic Church explains how the basic truths of the Christian family life can be taught.

It points out the various aspects that the bishops, priest, teachers and responsible people need to notice while teaching the nuances and the various aspects of the family life. Family education builds up the Church. The concern and respect shown to the children by the parents leads the children on to the path of growth. This becomes the reason for the joy of the children.

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The life of witness lived by the parents leads the children closer towards God. The love and embrace experienced from the parents at a very young age, leave an indelible mark through out their life. The divine experience and awareness are the incomparable wealth given by the parents to their children. No one else can perform this responsible task other than the parents. It is the home Church which is the basis for the teaching of Catechesis. This does have a special feature. Who else can better teach the values of the Catholic Catechesis within the family situation, amidst the joys and sorrows as life experiences, other than parents? What is taught becomes a feeling and what is felt gets fulfilled as education within a family.



Familiaris Consortio (The Role of Christian Family in the Modern World) The Document on principles published by the Church, contains several practical guidelines for principled living. We mention a few here.

1. Parents are the teachers who teach.
2. If it is the right of the parents to teach family education, it is their responsibility as well.
3. This mission of the parents is equated to the mission of priesthood. It is even higher than that! The priests only concentrate on the spiritual aspects. But the parents are bound to concentrate on the spiritual and physical aspects as well. This also involves much sacrifice in this.
4. The family education is the Ministry of spreading the Good News, for the parents.
5. The love, simplicity and life of witness polished within the family strengthens the foundation for the continuity of the spread of The Good News.
6. The prayer said in unison within the family is a deep sign sown in the hearts of the children.
7. The family is the future for the human race.

7. Evangelium Nuntiandi (Evangelization in the Modern World)

This is another wonderful document issued by the Second Vatican Council. No.71, of this document reiterates the relationship that should exist between the husband and wife, parents and children, the attitude that should dominate in these relationships are dealt with in brief.

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CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

SECOND EDITION



ST PAULS

Each and everyone in the family is a bearer of the Good News to the other. The parents not only expound the Good News to the children but they also learn the Good News from their children. Each is a tutor and a student to the other. When the entire family lives as the preacher of the Good News, then the neighbours see the Light that emanates from it.

8. Catechism of the Catholic Church

THIS WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN THE 16TH CENTURY BY A JESUIT SAINT PETER CANISIUS, WHO WAS A THEOLOGIAN.

This Book itself has been published in several languages within the Catholic Church. Even in Tamil, it has been taught to us in brief as Small prayer books and as Big Prayer books. After the Second Vatican Council the Catholic Church has published our faith teachings in a detailed and clear manner. It has been published in many languages. We can be greatly benefited reading No: 1653 onwards from this document.

Every family can benefit reading about the duties and discipline to be followed within a family. Some of the aspects stressed upon in this document:

1. The parents are the first and prime teachers for the children.
2. Family is the Home Church.
3. Today's world is like an enemy to a life of faith. In this scenario only the parents can form their children in faith.
4. The core reason for marriage is just not only seeking pleasure and begetting children, but teaching them discipline, a deep religious life and bringing them up in a life of faith, is the foremost duty of the parents. The service thus rendered by the parents can never be equated.
5. The virtues of gentleness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, selfless sacrifice will for sure bind the family members on the path toward holiness.

May we all work in unison for the family life to grow in holiness.

Fr. V. Ignatius.S.J.