

Discipleship as a Family

Discipleship

In and among families, the Gospel message should always resound; the core of that message, the kerygma, is what is “most beautiful, most excellent, most appealing and at the same time most necessary”. This message “has to occupy the center of all evangelizing activity”...In effect, “all Christian formation consists of entering more deeply into the kerygma”.

-Amoris Laetitia, 58

- Discipleship is intentional relationship centered on Jesus
- Develop a Married Spirituality that proclaims the Gospel
- Develop a Family Spirituality that proclaims the Gospel

The Family Facing Inward

“The sacrament is a gift given for the sanctification and salvation of the spouses, since “their mutual belonging is a real representation, through the sacramental sign, of the same relationship between Christ and the Church. The married couple are therefore a permanent reminder for the Church of what took place on the cross; they are for one another and for their children witnesses of the salvation in which they share through the sacrament”.

-Amoris Laetitia, 72

- Relationship of Spouses
- Formation of Children

The Family Facing Outward

“Marriage and the family have been redeemed by Christ and restored in the image of the Holy Trinity, the mystery from which all true love flows. The spousal covenant, originating in creation and revealed in the history of salvation, takes on its full meaning in Christ and his Church. Through his Church, Christ bestows on marriage and the family the grace necessary to bear witness to the love of God and to live the life of communion.

-Amoris Laetitia, 63

- Family as Evangelist
- Family as a place of mercy, love, and healing

Practicals

Form Your Family

- Help your family develop a spirituality
 - Individual study
 - Individual prayer
- Help your family encounter the poor- be a missionary
 - Look for opportunities for the whole family to serve together
- Be prepared to talk about big issues and questions as a family
- Be willing to share your story

Generosity

- Generous with both finances and time
 - Discuss as a family why you give of time and money
 - Encourage generosity in children
- Pick up the tab
- Don't use the "too busy" excuse
 - Talk about priorities as a family

Hospitality

- Invite people into your home and into your life
 - In doing so invite them into your family's prayer routine
- Lead children to look to serve a guest's needs first

Cultivate the Liturgy in the Home

- Create a prayer routine for spouses and for children
- Set up a space to pray
 - *Little Oratory: A Beginner's Guide to Praying in the Home* by David Clayton & Leila Lawler
- Create a culture of love for the liturgy and for prayer
- Celebrate Feast Days and reception of the Sacraments
- Read the Gospel to your Children
 - Start young and as children mature use different versions of the Bible

Proclaim the Gospel

- Point to Jesus whenever possible:
 - In disciplining
 - In conversation
- Find opportunities to explain and discuss the Gospel as a family
 - Leads to understanding and the ability to teach others