

THEME 5: FOUNDATION OF THE FAMILY AND SOCIETY

Relationship to Lived Experience

Reflection

Whenever he heard an ambulance siren, he offered a prayer for those involved in the accident or medical emergency. When the family pet passed away, she took care to bury it lovingly in the garden. Their Catholic faith was evident in the artwork on the walls and in the simple prayers offered at table and at bedtime. They celebrated the anniversary of each child's Baptism with ice cream sundaes, and they always managed to pull together a group of neighbors for Christmas caroling. Their children saw and treasured these rituals of family life.

Discussion Questions

1. Tell about a tradition or ritual you have in your home that you and your children enjoy celebrating each year, perhaps on a holiday or special occasion. Why does your family love doing this?
2. What does your family do that brings you together?
3. What opportunities for passing on your faith are uniquely present in family life (opportunities that don't usually happen at church)?
4. What things or actions remind you of God's presence in your home and family?

Journaling Questions

1. List three lessons you have learned from being a parent. How has parenthood strengthened your faith?
2. What would you like to do differently as a family? What one step can you take right now?
3. In your home, identify some reminders of God's presence. What can you add to or change about your home to increase your awareness of God in your daily life?