



# YOU ARE THE CHURCH IN YOUR HOME

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



This week's reflection is meant for our families with children either just beginning the journey of parenting or into it by many years. The joy of the Easter season is important to keep at the forefront of our faith journey. What better way to share this joy but with all those we consider our family. After all, a family is our first community and the most basic way in which the Lord gathers us, forms us, and acts in the world. The Church expresses this truth by calling the Christian family, a domestic church or church of the home. As Christian families, you not only belong to the Church, but your daily life is a true expression of the Church.

Your domestic church is not complete by itself. It should be united with and supported by parishes and other communities within the larger Church. Christ has called you and joined you to Himself in and through the Sacraments. Therefore, you share in one and the same mission that He gives to the whole Church. How do families carry out this mission in ordinary ways, you might be asking.

Here are a few examples. Believing in God, you turn to God in times of trouble. Also, it is God you give thanks to when all goes well. You love and believe in the value of another person. Young ones learn about God's love from their earliest experiences of being loved by their parents, grandparents, and other family members. You educate your children, imparting knowledge about our faith and helping them acquire Christian values which are all learned by your example. Praying together thanking God for blessings, asking for guidance and strength are simple ways that teach children many things. We sacrifice, forgive, and seek forgiveness over and over. We celebrate special life moments, especially the Sacraments, and most importantly gather each week to celebrate the most important meal – the Mass.

No domestic church does all of the above perfectly. We keep trying to be the best disciples possible knowing that Christ has called us and loves us deeply.

*Have a blessed, happy, and fruitful week ahead!*