



YOU ARE CHURCH AT HOME

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



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 early Church expressed this by calling the Christian family a domestic church. We can thank the Second Vatican Council for reintroducing this teaching. The point of this teaching is simple. As Christian families, we not only belong to the Church, but our daily lives are a true expression of the Church. Always important to keep in mind, our domestic church is not complete by itself. It needs to be united with and supported by our local parish and other communities within the larger Church. Remember, Our Lord has called us and joined us to Himself in and through the Sacraments. Therefore, we share in one and the same mission that He gives to the whole Church. Here are a few ordinary ways to carry out the mission of the church of the home:

- We believe in God and that God cares about us. It is God whom we turn to in times of trouble, and it is God to whom we give thanks when all goes well.
- You love and never give up believing in the value of another person. Before little ones hear God's Word preached at Mass, they form a picture of God drawn from their earliest experiences of being loved by their parents, grandparents, godparents, and other family members.
- You show your faith in God and set an example of Christian living for your children.
- As primary educators of your children, you share your knowledge of your faith and help your children acquire Christian values. Your example is the way your children will learn.

These are just a few ways to be church at home. None of us is perfect at this, but together all members of the Church can be faithful disciples of Christ.

Have a healthy, prayerful, and blessed week ahead!