

Households of Faith: Building up the Domestic Church

- **Goals for our time together:**
 - Develop an understanding of the Domestic Church from the Vatican perspective
 - Stop & Think about our faith roots
 - Make observations based on our experiences
 - Determine our role in guiding our families
 - Set a goal for our coming year

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When all else fails....

What does Domestic Church mean... Google Best Answer - Chosen by Voters

- By "Domestic Church", Blessed Pope John-Paul II meant that the family should be a place where the parents teach their children about God and that they should all live God-centered lives. Just as every member of Church is a part that makes up the one Church, so should it be with the family. Parents shouldn't just rely on the children's schools and/or their Church to teach their children about God--this should be a normal part of family life.
- Also, love and respect should imbue family life. If you really want to know the full meaning of "Domestic Church" you should read the following link, to Pope John Paul II's letter "Familiaris consortio"
http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_19811122_familiaris-consortio_en.html
- Another interesting find -- <http://www.fisheaters.com/domesticchurch.html>

It's about FAMILY & FAITH!

- Shared Stories & History
- Intertwined
- Fully Lived
- How we live
- Who we are
- Family Values

Share Your Story

- **FAITH** -- fully lived in our family - what does it look like?
- **SIGNS & SYMBOLS** -- Sacramentals, symbols, celebration, Word
- **CHRIST** -- purpose, presence, peace, PERSONAL
- **MASS** -- why, when, how often, Reconciliation, vacations
- **MISSION** -- mass is done -- now what? Are we?

When I was a child... (1Cor 13)

- **Memories of Baptism**
 - Who, Where, Age, Godparents, Chosen, Memories of that day, do we still celebrate it?
- **Welcoming Rites**
 - Accepted in a group, practicing each week, MY TURN!
- **Food for the Journey**
 - Eucharist (means), Passover, Family meals
- **Bread for the Word**
 - We become what we eat.... Family, community

Let the children come to me... (Mark 10)

How do we share our faith with our children?

What do they SEE us doing that teaches them about what faith MEANS to our family?

Do we celebrate our faith in our meals at home?

But what about...

- † **Extension Activities**
- † **Parent participation questions**
- † **Journals -- Prayer or mass**
- † **Mass Check Ins or Bulletins**
- † **Prayer Practice Books**
- † **Family Boards -- What does faith look like in my house?**

Don't Forget *Notes* **Don't Forget**

- *It's not our job judge -- It's our job to guide.*
- *Our call is to be a welcoming church.*
- *Our goal is to develop the faith WITHIN each family -- not just each child.*
- *We may be the ONLY experience of faith life a child has in their own life*
-- *make it a positive one!*
- **It's ABOUT THE SACRAMENT**
-- **NOT ABOUT THE PARTY!**

*We cannot all do great things,
but we can do small things
with great love.*

~~ *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

**Let Us Pray...
Just like a Child**

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