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The Office of Motherhood

HOLY FAMILY: EVERYDAY HEROES

THE PURPOSE

To realize the importance of motherhood, even though it seems to be filled with mundane tasks like cooking, dishes, and laundry. Sometimes, these things seem overwhelmingly insignificant but whatever we do for others is actually done for Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 19:14

CATECHISM

CCC 1655

THE SAINT

The Holy Family: Feast Day, first Sunday after Christmas. The Child Jesus, His Mother, Mary and His foster-father, St. Joseph comprise the Holy Family. They are the perfect model of gentleness, kindness, humility and love.

The Apostolate of Holy Motherhood



THE BOOK

The Apostolate of Holy Motherhood



“Our Lord needs from us neither great deeds nor profound thoughts. Neither intelligence nor talents. He cherishes simplicity.”

ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

Brunch on New Year’s Day has become a tradition in our family. My mom treats my sister and me, along with our husbands and children, to a grand feast. She’s an incredible woman. She even thinks to invite my sister’s mother-in-law.

After hosting a traditional Polish Christmas Eve, spoiling us with loads of gifts, crowning the evening with an exquisite dessert table, and after the traditional midnight Mass, my mom figures she still hasn’t done enough. She insists on picking up the entire New Year’s Day tab.

She’s not rich, but I’ve never met a more generous soul. Dad died in 1983 while on vacation in Poland. His patriotism demanded he be buried there. He never met my daughter. It makes me sad. But my mom is my hero, my source of inspiration. That she’s in her mid-eighties makes me stop and think. I remember her joy years ago playing with my daughter when she was a toddler and wondering even then if she would live to see our next child. Where does she get her energy? Why did I have to oppose her so much while I was growing up? Can I become as good a mother? God, I love her!

I remember one New Year’s brunch in particular. We had bought a camcorder that year and, as we left the restaurant, I couldn’t wait to get home to show mom the home videos of Christmas Eve. I knew she would squeal in delight. It takes so little to make her happy. She is also very big into recognition. So she watched every second of our videos and congratulated us as a family for this very important purchase.

Afterwards, my husband snuck away to his computer, while my mom and I gabbed. Eventually she laid down on the couch to enjoy the flickering lights on the Christmas tree while Monica sat on her stomach and played horsey. I hustled and bustled about, enjoying my mom’s company tremendously. I popped in to visit my husband and he asked: “What are you guys doing up there?” I casually replied, “Oh nothing.” As I left his office, I thought: What did I just say? I am doing nothing? I couldn’t help but laugh at myself. What had I done since he logged on to the Internet?

1. Hung up my daughter’s coat.
2. Restocked her diaper bag.
3. Put the diaper bag away.
4. Put her mittens in the mitten drawer.
5. Hung up everybody’s coat.
6. Changed two diapers.
7. Watered the Christmas tree.
8. Swept the spruce needles from under the tree.
9. Fixed my mom a ham-and-hot-sausage sandwich.
10. Made my daughter her favourite beans and scrambled eggs.
11. Washed the dishes.
12. Dried the dishes.
13. Put the dishes away.
14. Organized the gifts under the tree.
15. Emptied the diaper pail.
16. Put away my daughter’s clothing.
17. Gave her a bottle of juice.
18. Wiped down the kitchen counter.
19. Put away the camcorder paraphernalia.
20. Put all the furniture back into pre-video viewing conditions.
21. Cleared the kitchen and dining room table.
22. Played flash cards and cups with my little one.
23. Picked up about twenty-five Lego pieces.
24. Took out the garbage.
25. Got Monica ready for bed, teeth brushing included.
26. Made tea.
27. Tracked down that \$25 cash gift for Monica and put it away.
28. Gabbed with my mother about everything under the sun.

It was only grace that prevented me from turning around and reminding my husband exactly what I had done while he was surfing the Internet. He is the best husband in the world, and so I retreated.

Moral of the story? We really do need heroes at home to conquer the ordinary mundane tasks that transform a house into a home. There are hundreds of ways to say I love you; many of them are in deeds, others in silence. I am only now beginning to understand how precious it is to have had a mother who understands that nobody in the world can replace her love, and that nothing in the world is worth more than the “office” of motherhood. ❤️



QUESTIONS

- 1 Do you think motherhood is well respected in our society?
- 2 Have you ever been overwhelmed by all the “little” things that need to be done to turn a house into a home? What are some of the “tricks of the trade” that help you get your work done?
- 3 If you are a stay-at-home mom, have you ever felt embarrassed to admit it?
- 4 Do you feel that you are not important unless you are contributing to the family income?
- 5 In the Scripture passage Matthew 19:14, why does Jesus rebuke the apostles and tell them to allow the children to come to him?
- 6 CCC 1655 speaks of the family as the “domestic church.” Are you familiar with this term? How can we as mothers build up our family, the domestic church?

ACTIVITY

Good, Bad, & God

Everyone shares something good that’s happened, something bad that’s happened, and some way that God has worked in her life during the week.

QUOTE

“THE DUTY OF THE MOMENT IS WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING AT ANY GIVEN TIME, IN WHATEVER PLACE GOD HAS PUT YOU. YOU MAY NOT HAVE CHRIST IN A HOMELESS PERSON AT YOUR DOOR, BUT YOU MAY HAVE A LITTLE CHILD. IF YOU HAVE A CHILD, YOUR DUTY OF THE MOMENT MAY BE TO CHANGE A DIRTY DIAPER. SO YOU DO IT. BUT YOU DON'T JUST CHANGE THAT DIAPER, YOU CHANGE IT TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY, WITH GREAT LOVE FOR BOTH GOD AND THAT CHILD”.

Servant of God Catherine Doherty, Foundress of Madonna House

QUOTE

JESUS SAID, "LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT STOP THEM; FOR IT IS SUCH AS THESE THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS."

Matthew 19:14

QUOTE

CHRIST CHOSE TO BE BORN AND GROW UP IN THE BOSOM OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JOSEPH AND MARY. THE CHURCH IS NOTHING OTHER THAN "THE FAMILY OF GOD." FROM THE BEGINNING, THE CORE OF THE CHURCH WAS OFTEN CONSTITUTED BY THOSE WHO HAD BECOME BELIEVERS "TOGETHER WITH ALL [THEIR] HOUSEHOLD." WHEN THEY WERE CONVERTED, THEY DESIRED THAT "THEIR WHOLE HOUSEHOLD" SHOULD ALSO BE SAVED. THESE FAMILIES WHO BECAME BELIEVERS WERE ISLANDS OF CHRISTIAN LIFE IN AN UNBELIEVING WORLD.

Paragraph # 1655 - Catechism of the Catholic Church

