

*Meditations in preparation for the Solemnity of St. Joseph
Institute Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará*

Meditation on Day 30 (March 18)

“In imitation of the Holy Family”

We divide the meditation into three points:

1. The Family of Nazareth as a role model in our families.
2. Attacks against the Family
3. Means for the sanctification of family life through prayer

1) The Holy Family of Nazareth as a role model in our families.

“The life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph must serve as the mirror for all Christian families, and image which they may seek to reflect. Each family bond should imitate the Holy Family, imitate the virtues of its members, with their own peculiarities, and relive their examples so that each home may re-establish the home of Nazareth. Like that sacred household, we are called to make Christ the center of every human family. Only in this way will our homes be fully joyful and places where we can find true happiness, for they imitate the happiest marriage in the world.”¹

2) Attacks against the Family

Servant of God Sor Lucia, the visionary of Fatima, said: “The final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of Satan will be against Marriage and the Family. Do not fear, she added, because whoever acts in favor of the sanctity of Marriage and Family will always be fought and confronted in every way, because this is the turning point. However, Our Lady has already crushed his head.”²

The devil seeks to attack the family through ideologies and individualistic lifestyles and thoughts that have seduced society, especially the spread of divorce.³

In recent times, there has been a notable and particular determination to destroy the family, the “cell of society”⁴ and the domestic Church.⁵ These efforts have the goal of dragging society and the Church into ruins. The attack is focused there because it is in the domestic church of the family where people learn to love God, their nation, and their neighbor. It is only in healthy families—and only exceptionally outside of them—that strong and virtuous men and women are formed, heroes and saints, who are the only ones able to build up their nation and to sow the seed of the Church, even with their own blood if necessary.⁶

“We are witnesses of an indifferent culture of death, before which the prophetic words of Chesterton are confirmed: “take away the supernatural and what remains is the unnatural”.⁷ Fruits of such a denial are abortion, euthanasia, and the

¹ Directory of the Third Order of the Institute of the Incarnate word, n.95

² <https://www.aciprensa.com/noticias/sor-lucia-batalla-final-entre-cristo-y-satanas-sera-sobre-familia-y-matrimonio-36529-2/3>

³ <https://www.aciprensa.com/noticias/no-es-ficcion-un-demonio-biblico-es-especialista-en-atacar-a-la-familia-32204>

⁴ Pius XII, Radio Message on the 50th Anniversary of “Rerum Novarum,” June 1st, 1941, Colección Encíclicas Pontificias, Editorial Guadalupe, p. 1583.

⁵ Saint Augustine: “We consider your house to be no insignificant Church of Christ.” Epistle 188, 3. Trans. by J.G. Cunningham. Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, First Series, Vol. 1. Edited by Philip Schaff. (Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Publishing Co., 1887).

⁶ Modern Attacks Against the family, IVEPRESS, pg. 15

⁷ G.K CHESTERTON, Heretics, Baronius Press LTD, London 2006 pg.58

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deterioration of the family and sexuality. In addition to this, “when Christ is excluded or denied, our vision of human purpose dwindles; and as we anticipate and aim for less, hope gives way to despair, joy to depression.”⁸

Another disturbing consequence of denying the Incarnation is that “the individual relationship with God seen as purely personal and private, so that God is removed from the processes that govern social, political and economic activity.”⁹ ¹⁰

We must not become accustomed to the culture of death, the destruction of the family, political societies disconnected from the Gospel. We must engage in battle against these realities and to do so, it is necessary to raise the standard of the Incarnation of the Word. For only Christ can elevate man, and all of the human reality, from the consequential misery brought on by the denial of His Mystery and of His reality as true God and true Man.¹¹

3) Means for the Sanctification of Family Life through prayer

“The sacramental life—especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation—gain for our families the holiness to which God calls us. The Mass should be attended as a family, as far as possible, with everyone present. Not only on Sundays but also on ecclesial feasts and for important family moments, a practice which strengthens family life.”¹²

Also in the likeness of the Holy Family and the submission of Christ to His parents, we must learn to praise family authority, which must be respected, honored and obeyed as obeying God and not men (Col 3:23). Pope Leo XIII noted that “The power of parents has a certain and express image of the authority that exists in God, from whom all fatherhood in the heavens and on the earth brings its name (Eph 3.15) ¹³”¹⁴

It is also through family prayer that we can come closer to the Holy Family and thus do good and be able to save ourselves: “Without Me you can do nothing.” (Jn 15:5)¹⁵

Let us ask in the meditation today, through the intercession of Saint Joseph, that he may obtain for us the grace of building up each of our families into a family that follows Christ, and Christ crucified, a family that lives by the values of the Gospel, a family that is not afraid to face the world, even when that world that tries to make Christ the Incarnate Word disappear.

St Joseph, Patron of family life, pray for us.

Message for Youth, St. John Paul II

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-7AevuzHP0> Spanish

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D7lFfnlcmDI> English/ Spanish

<https://40horas.org/> Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament online

⁸ SAINT JOHN PAUL II, Letter to the Master General of the Order of Preachers, July 11, 2001.

⁹ Ibidem.

¹⁰ REV. FR MIGUEL ANGEL FUENTES, The Mystery of the Incarnation and our Times, Acts of the IVE Meeting, July 2019, pg.258-259

¹¹ Ibidem

¹² ACTS OF THE IVE MEETING, Conferences, Life and the family- Dr. Eduardo and Clara Maggiora, IVE Third Order Members, July 2019, pg. 332

¹³ LEO XIII Diuturnum Illud, 7

¹⁴ Third Order Directory of the Institute of the Incarnate Word, n. 96

¹⁵ Acts of the IVE Meeting, Life and the family, Dr. Eduardo and Clara Maggiora, IVE Third Order Members, p. 332