

Episode 1: Reflection Questions

We invite you to read and prayerfully reflect on these paragraphs of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: 1655 – 1657. Before you dive in, take a moment and enter into prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you.

For example:

Come, Holy Spirit, Come.

Lord Jesus, I lay before you my fears and insecurities, my pride, expectations, disappointments, agendas and attachments, and all of the obstacles that prevent me from fully receiving what you desire to give. I open my heart to you, and I ask you to be the Lord of my life. Fill me with your Spirit, Lord and guide me according to your will.

(the Catechism paragraphs can be found here: https://www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c3a7.htm)

Here are some things to reflect on (both individually and with your spouse, if applicable) to help you get started.

1. “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.” CCC 1655
 - What does this reveal to us about God’s vision of “family”?
 - Ask the Lord to reveal to your heart the unique beauty of your own family and HIS vision for it?
2. Read CCC 1656. *believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith. ... parents are "by word and example . . . the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children. ..."*
 - When I think of “the church”, do I think of “us” instead of “them”? Do I see my role in the universal church as part of “domestic church” as being “of primary importance”?
 - How can I be, by word and example, the “herald of the faith” that God has called me to be?
3. *“It is here that the father of the family, the mother, children, and all members of the family exercise the priesthood of the baptized in a privileged way "by the reception of the sacraments, prayer and thanksgiving, the witness of a holy life, and self-denial and active charity."¹⁷⁰ Thus the home is the first school of Christian life and "a school for human enrichment."¹⁷¹ Here one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous - even repeated - forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life.” CCC 1657*
 - Take time to really pray and reflect on the invitation we have been given to “exercise the priesthood of the baptized in a privileged way”. How can we grow in our receptivity to this gift and invitation?

Based on the above reflections, are there other reflection questions that came into your heart? If so, spend time with those as well.

Resist any sense of discouragement, knowing with great confidence that God's love and mercy are bigger than anything before us. Ask for His guidance to choose and to take the next step towards Him.

Is there one actionable item that you feel inspired to implement that would help you and your family grow in your role as Domestic Church?