

Fr. Brad Neely

Holy Family Sunday: Year C – Sts Peter & Paul – Dec 27, 2009

1Sam1 20-22, 24-28; 1Jn3: 1-2,21-24; Lk 2: 41-52.

When we consider our lives on earth, we have a:

- 1- divine origin
- 2- earthly middle ground
- 3- hopefully divine end

This can also be said about life in our families, since the family is made up of individuals living these truths.

The reality is,
is that family life,
because of its divine connections,
is not separate from the Church.

So, for this Solemnity of the Holy Family,
I would like to consider a few of the teachings
taken from the Vatican II document:

Guadium Et Spes: Church in the Modern World;

The Dignity of Marriage and the Family:

When we look at these,
we look at the ideal.

We come to the ideal from our own situations,
with which we try to do the best we can do.

After each statement, freelance comments:

[p48] “Authentic married love is caught up into divine love.”

[p47] "The *well being* of the individual person,
and of both human and Christian society
is closely bound up with **the healthy state**
of conjugal and family life."

[p48] “It is an *institution confirmed by the divine law*
and receiving its *stability*,
even in the eyes of society,
from the human act by which the partners
mutually surrender themselves to each other;
for the good of the partners,
of the children,
and of society. . .”

The intimate union of marriage,
as a mutual giving of two persons,
and the *good of the children*,
demand total **fidelity**. . . .”

“As for the spouses, when they are given the *dignity*
and *role of fatherhood and motherhood*,
they will eagerly carry out their duties of education,
especially religious education,
which primarily devolves on them.

"Children, as living members of the family,

contribute in their own way
to the sanctification of their parents.

With sentiments of gratitude, affection and trust,
they will *repay* their parents
for the benefits given to them
and will come to their assistance
as devoted children in times of hardship
and in the loneliness of old age.

[p51]: "God, the Lord of life,
has entrusted to [us]
the noble mission of safeguarding life,
and [we] must carry it out
in a manner worthy of [our]selves."

[p52]: “The family is, in a sense,
a school for human enrichment.”
"The family is the place
where different generations come together
and help one another to grow wiser
and harmonize the rights of individuals
with other demands of social life. . .”

“Christians, making full use of the times
in which we live
and carefully distinguishing the everlasting
from the changeable,
should actively strive to promote
the values of marriage and the family;
it can be done by the witness of their own lives,
and by concerted action. . . .

“Let married people themselves,
who are created in the image of the living God
and constituted in an authentic personal dignity,
be **united together in equal affection**,
agreement of mind,
and **mutual holiness**.”

Again, families are created from **divine origins**
and have **divine ends**,
with an **earthly mid-ground**.
We cannot rely on governments
to safeguard the family---
it is up to us.

As with all things worthy and holy,
we find in the family, Christ’s footsteps,
and endeavor to follow them.