

The Domestic Church

Pray! Play! and Love!

The Mission of the Family is to Guard, Reveal, and Communicate Love JPII

Community

The quest for community will not be denied, for it springs from some of the powerful needs of human nature—needs for a clear sense of cultural purpose, membership, status, and continuity. Without these, no amount of mere material welfare will serve to arrest the developing sense of alienation in our society, and the mounting preoccupation with the imperatives of community.

Robert Nisbet, Sociologist

“Social scientists have been calling attention to the weakening of American community life for more than a decade, and a new research group in the U.S. Senate, called the Social Capital Project, has been established to investigate the causes of that decline.”

Nicholas Wolfram Smith

“Social relationships through which we pursue joint endeavors are critical to forming our

character and capacities, providing us with meaning and purpose, and for addressing the many challenges we face. When people lack the meaning and purpose derived from strong bonds and routine social attachments, they are more prone to alienation. Healthy family relationships impart benefits. The relationships we forge are vital sources of companionship, social support, mutual aid, information, and self-governance. Americans are nostalgic for a time when family life was healthier. The increasingly central pursuit of material ends and professional goals has crowded out the demands of a robust community life no less than those of family life. We may be materially richer than in the past. But with less security in our family life, we are much poorer for doing less together.”

Social Capital Project May 2017

Discussion Questions

1. Where do people make their communities?
2. Where do your children find their friends?
3. Do you know the parents of your children’s friends?
4. Do you have friendships with other Catholics or parishioners?
5. How often do you get together with another family?
6. Do you ever pray with another family or share your faith with them?



COMMUNITY LIFE IS ESSENTIAL

“far from being closed in on itself, the family is by nature and vocation open to other families and to society, and undertakes its social role.”

Familiaris Consortio 42

God created us to engage and sanctify the world, not withdraw from it. Forming a



community of life and love is the best cultural contribution Christian families can offer society. Christian families working together can change the world.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput