

Chaste Love  
A Time for Patient Waiting  
Prayer

- ◆ O Lord Jesus, you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth. There you grew in age, wisdom and grace as you prepared to fulfill your mission as our Redeemer. R/: We entrust our families to you.
- ◆ O Blessed Mary, you are the Mother of our savior. At Nazareth you cared for Jesus and nurtured him in the peace and joy of your home. R/: We entrust our families to you.
- ◆ O St. Joseph, you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary, and gave us a model of fatherhood while showing us the dignity of work. R/: We entrust our families to you.
- ◆ Holy Family, we consecrate ourselves and our families to you. May we be completely united in a love that is lasting, faithful, and open to the gift of new life. Help us to grow in virtue, to forgive one another from our hearts, and to live in peace all our days. Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer, diligent in our work, and generous toward those in need. May our home, O Holy Family, truly become a domestic church where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen. R/: Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!

The Domestic Church

- ◆ “Christian Marriage, as a reflection of the union between Christ and his Church, is fully realized in the union between a man and a woman who give themselves to each other in a free, faithful and exclusive love, who belong to each other until death and are open to the transmission of life, and are consecrated by the sacrament, which grants them the grace to become a domestic church and a leaven of new life for society.”

◆ Pope Francis, *The Joy of Love*

The Family as Domestic Church

- ◆ Today, it is increasingly common to speak of the family as the “domestic church.” This is not merely rhetorical. The ideal of the family as a domestic church goes back to the Old Testament. It was stated most simple and eloquently, perhaps by Joshua: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” It was developed in the New Testament: “Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her.”

◆ Carl Anderson, *The Civilization of Love*

Love: The Mission of the Family

- ◆ The family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love, and this is a living reflection of and a real sharing in God's love for humanity and the love of Christ the Lord for the Church, His bride."

◆ St. John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio

#### Parents and the Moral Development of their Children

- ◆ Parents always influence the moral development of their children, for better or for worse. It follows that they should take up this essential role and carry it out consciously, enthusiastically, reasonably and appropriately."

◆ Pope Francis

#### A love within the Communion of Saints

- ◆ It is important that the 'communion of persons' in the family should become a preparation for the 'communion of Saints.'

#### Fully Alive in Love

- ◆ Where is that person of whom the saints said, "The glory of God is man fully alive?" Where is the person created and redeemed by Christ? Where is the person who joyfully lives the vocation to love to which humanity has been called by Christ? Where can we find the "new" Adam in the day-to-day world around us? It is the responsibility of Christians to show the world this new Adam. They will do so by their actions, by their attitudes, and by their influence. But above all, they will do so by their love."

◆ St. Pope John Paul II

#### Chaste Love

- ◆ Striving for a Pure Love. A Pure Love comes from a Pure Heart.
- ◆ True love is a chaste love.

- ◆ Chastity means not having any sexual relations outside of marriage. It also means fidelity to husband or wife during marriage. In Catholic morality, chastity is placed opposite the deadly sin of lust, and is classified as one of seven virtues. The moderation of sexual desires is required to be virtuous.

- ◆ To love another for their own sake and not to use another for our own selfish pleasure.

#### Dreaming God's Dream



God's dream for a true love.

Our dream for true love.

We are created for love.

#### A Greater Gift



Striving for the greater spiritual gifts.

"I will show you a more excellent way."

The desire to love is what kept a young person young, he said. But love, he said, wasn't what was seen in the soap operas.

"Love is more in actions than in words," he said.

"Love is concrete."

In this regard, he said how God began to speak of love when he chose the people with whom he made a covenant, when he committed himself to this people.

Secondly, love was in communication, he said.

"Love listens and responds. Love is made in dialogue, in communion. It is communicated. Love is neither deaf nor dumb. It communicates," he said.

Love was not "a romantic sentiment of the moment".

Pope Francis also spoke about chastity, admitting that it could be an "unpopular" word that young people did not like.

But love was chaste, he said.

Love was respectful of people and did not use people.

"And you, young people, in this hedonistic world, in this world where the only thing that gets attention is pleasure, having a good time, living the good life, I tell you, be chaste. Be chaste," he said.

The youth responded to his exhortation with applause.

"All of us have gone through times in life when this virtue is difficult," the Pope said.

"But it is the proof of a genuine love, a love that knows how to give life, that doesn't seek the other for one's own pleasure."

A chaste love was one that saw the other's life as something sacred, affirming that "I respect you and I don't want to use you", he said.

"Look at the love parents have, of so many mothers and fathers who arrive to work in the morning exhausted because they haven't slept well from having cared for a sick child. This is love.

And this is respect," he said.

Love was service, and serving the others, he said.

Father Martin proceeds to offer six ways to love chastely, based on the wisdom of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Jesuits, who preached that love shows itself more in deeds than words. Here's an abridged account:

1. Listen compassionately. "Compassionate listening is an important way of making someone feel respected and loved. ...Listening in joyful times is important too."
2. Be present. "As Jesuit novices, when we were working as hospital chaplains we were taught that a "ministry of presence" – simply being with another person – is an important part of pastoral care."
3. Do something practical. "Here's a good question to ask: What active ways of chaste loving can be part of my life? How about: Help your elderly mother clean her house. Drive a sick friend to the hospital. Babysit for a stressed young couple. Take a friend out to dinner even if it's not her birthday or a special event. Write a letter to someone whom you know is lonely..."
4. Love freely. "One of the hardest parts of love is this: allowing the other to love you as he or she can, not as you want to be loved. ...Accepting others as they are means not only trusting in their love, but respecting how they choose to love."
5. Forgive. "Forgiveness releases the other from the trap of guilt and can also help to release you from your own anger. It is never easy, but in the end it is an act of love that heals both the forgiver and the forgiven."
6. Pray. "Ask God to help those you love. Ask God to be close to them. Most of all, ask God to allow you to see others the way God does."

### Chaste Love and Advent

- ◆ Advent is a time of preparation
- ◆ Advent is a time of patient waiting
- ◆ Chaste love is a preparation for a greater love, for a forever love, for a faithful love, for a love that gives everything to the beloved
- ◆ Chaste love waits; chaste love is patient;

Every day, "entering into the life of another, even when that person already has a part to play in our life, demands the sensitivity and restraint which can renew trust and respect. Indeed, the deeper love is, the more it calls for respect for the other's freedom and the ability to wait until the other opens the door to his or her heart".

### The Mystery of Incarnate Love

- ◆ God's love is not just an ideal or an abstraction
- ◆ In the birth of Christ, the Word (of love) becomes flesh and reveals in a concrete and visible way the love of the Father

- ◆ The love of God is seen in the sacrifice of Jesus; the “no greater love” that is lived in laying down one’s life for another
- ◆ Love is realized more in giving than in taking; love is pure gift

#### Promise and Fulfillment

- ◆ God promises us that if we wait patiently for love that love will come and bring with it fulfillment; love will be the answer to our deepest prayers, hopes and dreams; Love brings an abundance of life, a love that fulfills us as persons
- ◆ Prayer as an aid in patiently waiting for the fulfillment of love’s promises; praying for the coming of love in one’s life

#### Mary, Mother of Love

- ◆ Mary teaches us about faithful love
- ◆ Mary teaches us how to say “yes” every day to the challenges and demands of love
- ◆ Joseph teaches us how to guard love and to keep it pure
- ◆ Mary and Joseph nurture love and allow it to mature

#### Teaching love

- ◆ Every encounter, every experience in life teaches us about love
- ◆ Love in the family is about listening to the Word of God and keeping it
- ◆ Love is fulfilled in relationships - how to conduct our relationships
- ◆

#### Reflection questions

- ◆ How can parents be an example of chaste love for their children?
- ◆ What sort of language makes chaste love achievable and desirable?
- ◆ How can parents point out examples of chaste love in their children’s lives?
- ◆ How can prayer help in growing and maturing in the formation of chaste love?