

CHAPTER 5 – ASSIGNMENTS

PART 1: FAMILY AND DOMESTIC CHURCH

ASSIGNMENTS FOR § 147–152

WITH LOVE AS THE GUIDING PRINCIPLE

Work on as a couple

In his *Letter to Families* (1994), Pope John Paul II wrote that ‘yes, the civilization of love is possible; it is not a utopia. But it is only possible by a constant and ready reference to the “Father from whom all fatherhood on earth is named” (cf. Ephesians 3: 14–15), from whom every human family comes’.

Write down catchwords for what the two of you will emphasize in the family you now establish:

- a. If we have children, how will we make them feel loved and appreciated right from the start?
- b. How will we build close, loving and trusting relationships between ourselves and any children we may have?
- c. Which values and traditions do we want to pass on to our children?
- d. What kind of services for our fellow human beings could we imagine getting involved in as a family?

ASSIGNMENTS FOR § 153–154

LIFE WITH OUR FAMILIES

Work on as a couple

Christ lived as a child and as a youth in a family with Mary and Joseph, within a framework similar to that of ordinary people. In this way, God sanctified human life and the family in particular. With paper and pencil, draw a sketch of how the two of you will relate to your relatives.

- a. How much are you willing to include parents, siblings and grandparents in your own life and in that of your future children? On which of your family’s milestone days would you like to get together?
- b. How do you plan to live the first five years as a married couple, with respect to family, children, studies, work and working hours? Spend time on this question; sketch alternative solutions.

ASSIGNMENTS for 154–159

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE PARENTING ROLE TODAY?

Group discussion

Read Articles 5–7 in *Charter of the Rights of Families*, presented by the Holy See on 22 October 1983, through the initiative of Pope John Paul II.

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/family/documents/rc_pc_family_doc_19831022_family-rights_en.html

- a. Due to the way our society is organized, children from ten to twelve months old and up to adult age spend most of the day separated from their parents, oftentimes eight to ten hours per day. What do you think about the fact that much of the responsibility of childrearing is relegated to kindergartens and schools and to persons without any familial or values-based relation to the children? Are there situations in which the interests of parents and the state can conflict? What effect does such an organization of society have on the time for family life and parents' right to choose the type of education children will have (as established in the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 26.3)?
- b. How can a family have time to be family? Think out alternative social systems that give families and children the best possible conditions for thriving, at the same time as children's schooling and necessary services for the community are ensured in a good way.

Discuss together as a couple

c. What kind of everyday life do you want to give your own children?

- One stay-home parent while the children are little?
- Part-time employment for one/both parents, which gives the possibility for more time with the children?
- Both parents working while the children are in full-day kindergarten?
- Other solutions (private nanny, babysitter)?

Discuss the practical consequences of each alternative.

d. How can the two of you cultivate friendship and hobbies in a way that includes the children?

ASSIGNMENTS FOR § 160–164

HOW DO WE PASS ON OUR FAITH TO OUR CHILDREN?

Work on together as a couple

- a. How can we imagine passing our faith on to our children? What place will we give to prayer and the celebration of sacraments in our married life?
- b. How will we do this in practice if we have different faiths/worldviews? How can we, in our home, create a good and respectful dialogue about questions relating to faith and values?
- c. Familiarize yourselves with the Catholic Church's Internet-based resources for mediating faith. See the 'Resources' section (below) and check out whether your parish offers activities for children and families. See [Katolske menigheter i Norge — Den katolske kirke](#)

PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENTS

- If possible, pray together daily. If there are special texts that reflect your faith or worldview, share them with each other.
- Present the things you would want to have in your home to turn it into a place for prayer and reflection, e.g., a crucifix to hang on a wall or an icon and a candle – nothing more is needed. Make everything ready before the wedding.

SUGGESTED READING

- [Domestic Church? Hold On, It's Just a Family! - Word on Fire](#)
www.wordonfire.org/resources/blog/the-civilization-of-love-in-sts-louis-and-zelie-martin/24536/
- [Charter of the Rights of the Family \(22 October 1983\) \(vatican.va\)](#)
- *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 2006. Chapter 5, 'The Family, The Vital Cell of Society'. (This is published in Albanian, Byelorussian, Chinese, German, English, French, Greek, Hungarian, Indonesian, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Swahili, Ukrainian and Vietnamese.)
www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/justpeace/documents/rc_pc_justpeace_doc_20060526_compendio-dott-soc_en.html
- Pope John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*, 1981, 17–64.
- Pope John Paul II, *Letter to families*, 1994.
- Emma Ulrikke Weiglin Eriksen, *De gyldne dagene – kirkeåret og katolske festdager med barn*, Oslo: St. Olav Forlag, 2013.

RESOURCES

The Catechetical Centre's webpages www.blilys.no and www.katekese.no contain teaching materials and activities for children and families.

Norges Unge Katolikker www.nuk.no offers summer camps and weekend camps for children and young people as well as magazines for their members.

St. Olav Publishing House <https://stolavforlag.no>

St. Olav Bookstore <https://www.stolavbok.no>

The blog <https://stasunniva.blogspot.com/> contains lots of family-oriented material, plus an overview of several other Catholic blogs (in Norwegian).