

FAMILY, STRENGTH AND HOPE OF HUMANITY

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Man is by nature a highly social human being, always meets with his peers in order to form groups, communities and societies, thereby improve and satisfy his needs. The elemental institutions that compose society are: **Family**, natural foundation of social character, transmits behavior patterns and leads to the beginning of the entire social dynamics, in it, customs and traditions of social organization are contained. **Church**, built around cults of faith, groups related to the beliefs of human beings with the mission to promote the dignity of the person. **School**, forms and involves activities related to culture, art and education. **Politics**, regulates the conduct of the group, covers all fields of action, laws and statutes that govern society.

Family is the first model of social structure, Pope Benedict XVI said that family "heritage of humanity" constitutes the most important treasure of Latin American people, is a unit of religious, social and political destiny and the main pillar of society; where members born, learn, educate and develop. The Catholic perspective expresses that God instituted family oriented for the welfare of the spouses, procreation and education of children and is established on marriage, which is the stable relationship; love of man and woman to complement each other. Is much more than a legal, social or economic unit, is a community of love and solidarity to transmit and install virtues and human ethical, spiritual, social, cultural and religious values and principles of coexistence, which are essential for the development and success of its members and society.

In Family is where citizens born and is family that constitutes the natural area and the most effective instrument of social humanizing and personalizing. Helps original and deeply build up the world. Family is and has been school of Faith, palestra of human and civil values. Christ who tells us that **"God is love and in himself he lives a personal mystery of love"** and opting for family living among us, has elevated to the dignity of Domestic Church. From it we receive life, the first experience of love and faith.

The great treasure of educate children in faith is the experience of a family life that receives, preserves, celebrates, witnesses and transmits faith. Family in its unity is irreplaceable and with the responsibility of educate children for life, so that each one achieves its mission according to the vocation received from God. The functions that family have in society are **Biological**, seeks sexual pleasure of adults and perpetuation of the specie. **Economic**, contemplates the satisfaction of human needs. **Education**, promotes the transmission of culture, habits and customs. **Religious**, instils transcendent values and religious practices, and **Recreation**: facilitates rest and recreation of family members.

In Latin America because of modernization new family structures have emerged, childless couples and non-nuclear homes, also female-headed families has increase. Among the families models we can distinguish: - **Nuclear** - **Extended** - **Composite**, which can be single parent or two-parent. Besides the traditional renowned family, involving father and mother, joined in marriage with their children, some would propose other types as those formed by cohabiting couples, single and without foundation, the gays and lesbians, not respecting the nature of family.

Among the results of modernization and its specific effects on families we can mention some changes in production processes and demographic composition, also new patterns of consumption and labor. The massive incorporation of women into the job market has transformed the usual patterns of performance of Latin American homes, specifically family has been submitted to major demographic, social and economic readjustment that not only prevents properly fulfill their functions, it also transforms it. It's clear that the nature of family does not modifies, but Latin America has pretended to change the concept, structure, dynamics, roles, limits, and life cycle. In some families, living is defined by permissive, irresponsible and selfish; there is confusion of roles, the dynamics are ambiguous and turbulent, hierarchy is not objective between parents and children, it seems that everyone is equal. Family displays deficiencies in moral authority, parenting training, interpersonal communication, identity of roles and a model of high values.

It has been suggested that we live in a world in which the three dimensions of the classical meaning of family: **-sexuality**, **-procreation** and **-coexistence**, have experienced profound evolvement in different orders, what has been according to some, a growing multiplicity of

family systems and way of living. Family is social, however in recent times has acquired a closed feature that limits their relationships, perhaps the restraint of the family, father, mother and one or two children is what makes misplace the links of relationship and amplitude. There is too much privacy in relationships and the absence of coeducation in human values takes apparently the couple to base their relation exclusively on an erotic union, reduced to genitals, without basis of authentic communication. The main problems affecting families in Latin America are domestic violence, unemployment and disintegration mainly motivated by the divorce of parents. Consequently, the concept of unity, continuity and indissolubility is broken by this decision in detriment of the other members, no less problematic is the family attack suffered by the radical feminism and its gender ideology that ignores family as a natural institution.

Family institution is truly in crisis by a decreased guidance on transcendent values, the tension between the old patriarchal structure and, increasingly, major "liberation", is one of the fundamental root causes of trouble within the couple, marriage and family. Institutions and laws ignore the inviolable rights of family, the own person and society, wherein a liberalist group, instead of serving family, attacks violently its values and fundamental requirements. Thereby family, which by nature and according to the plans of God is the cell of society, the subject of rights and duties before the State or any other community, is a victim of society, of the delays and slowness of interventions and even more of its injustices.

Currently in families, there is a void of fatherhood and authority, but above all, there is a void of God. An absence of family models accordance to the Christian "**FAMILY OF NAZARETH**". It is **not possible** that the primordial cell, the base from which the individual is born, and in the story represents the ideal to prepare the human being within society level, decays. It's **possible** that the family crisis is not beneficial, but is the opportunity to try to solve the causes that through the age has declined the family institution, time to meditate on our own family through these questions:

- Could it be that family as an institution has lost its vocation, mission, responsibility and social function?

- Could it be that parents have disregarded the education and training function to the children?
- Could it be that children are being prepared for consumption rather than for production?
- Could it be that family itself is also responsible for promoting mechanisms to face its own crisis?
- Could it be that the critical stage is part of family life cycle?
- Could it be that family as a social institution must face the problem and take it as an opportunity to emerge with the transcendent values of human condition?

Because we cannot longer allow attacks against family, *irresponsible parenthood, family dissolution, children raised by television, the Internet, electronic games and loneliness. Even less*, allow gender ideology confuse us, knowing that family is a nature institution and declared that is the product of class struggle in society, culture or an oppressive economic system.

Under this precarious condition in family, we find that today is providentially sustained and supported by *Cristian associations*: The Episcopal Commission on Family Ministry that openly and strongly defends the rights of family, even against the intrusions of society and the State; Family Ministry, Christian Family Movement (CFM), Mexican Association for the Comprehensive Family (AMSIF), Partnerships Knights of Columbus. In educational field, official and private Colleges and Universities. In the social sphere, Professional Associations and Civil Commission for Human Rights (CNDH), Life and Family AC (VIFAC), Mexican Association of Parents and many more. At the official level the Integral Family Development (DIF), Women's Institute (MI). However, it lacks an integral, holistic and preventive program to support family. They are just biased programs to implement in emerging situations.

However, is crucial that pastoral intervention of Church be more generous toward those families facing difficult situations: military, sailors, travelers, migrants, prisoners, refugees, exiles and homeless. Families with handicapped children, drunk or drugged,

displaced from their cultural and social environment or ideologically divided. Families experiencing violence or unjust treatment because of their faith.

CONCLUSION

Man is and should be the top subject and end of all social institutions, even though the critical point of family.

Man by his relational nature has the right, if it is his vocation, to form a family from relationships based on love, which allow him to provide, protect and lead it.

Family has to defend itself from the attacks of his uncountable enemies, even those inside of it, owing to sexism and bad example they give each other, or those outside of it, influenced by feminist ideologies sponsored in the media and modern electronic systems so that family does not have the necessary union to survive.

State and Church have the commitment to give families all possible aid to qualify them to perform their educational functions, allow them to establish strong relationships among its members. They must provide support not forgetting that God himself has appointed parents as the first and foremost educators of their children, and that their right is inalienable.

Legislation of the world, must attempt laws to protect, sustain and promote the concept of family, for easy attachment and continuity. They must also respect, protect and promote the true nature of family, the rights of parents, children and domestic welfare. Reminding that state functions are subsidiaries.

We are all call to make efforts to rescue, convert and strengthen family as the starting point for a better society, to develop men and women capable of forming solid families. Otherwise, continue to see the pictures of illiteracy, truancy, child begging, drug abuse, crime, prostitution and child labor and exploitation present in our streets.

Parents must provide quality time to their children, establishing and strengthening communication links. Teaching, long before school, the principles and values they wish to appreciate. Understand that family relationships are more important than any other success in life.

Parents must take new conscious of their joyful and binding responsibility in the education of their children. Because loving family means:

- Appreciate its values and capacity, fostering them always.
- Be aware of the dangers and evils that threaten to overcome them.
- Strive to create an environment that encourages their development.

An imminent form of love is to give modern families, often tempted by discouragement and distress, because of the increasing problems, reasons for self-confidence, in the wealth of his nature and grace and in the mission that God entrusted:

“We need our families soar higher to their original position... following Christ”

Finally nursing professionals must conceive family as a bulwark of human development, as the most basic and solid social institution. Considering is the essential unity of their interventions, recognizing that its structure is a dynamic process with several impacts on their welfare.

Beyond the family structure, all of them are in need of care and develop. The nurse must be responsive and understand the impact of the composition in family health, in order to orient them to maintain stability through the awareness of its members, of the importance of compliance with standards, rules and clearly defined roles, as well as establish a bi-directional communication, clear and permanent to achieve the balance of family health

The future of humanity is built in families, and family, is our responsibility

