For those suddenly in a position to teach their children online and to study out, this has been quite a challenge, especially since both parents may also be teleworking. Parents, please know that I understand full well the challenges you face in educating your children, rooted in faith, that is the source and summit of their faith. While destructive in many ways, the coronavirus has reminded us of the inexpressible role parents play as the first and most important educators of their children, especially in the ways of faith.

No matter what children remember of their parents taught them, the greatest lesson learned is that they are loved and cherished. This is perhaps the most fundamental lesson any child needs to understand, as this is the foundation for their academic, emotional, and social development. That love and care is an extension of the pastoral care that Christ gives to the entire Church.

The domestic church is alive and thriving throughout this pandemic. Families do not only socialize with those who are closest to them for several months. Through the grace and mercy of Our Lord, they have taken ownership as the local church, and that each person grows and that the family grows together. What a beautiful witness of the Christian life!

Since March, bishops have been reminded that the public celebration of the Mass is the source and summit of the faith (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, no. 10, and Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, no. 11). During this time, we are learning that our sacrifices must be rooted in faithfulness and love. Otherwise, our sacrifices are nothing but drudgery and frustration. We learn never to be complacent and to remember that the public celebration of the Mass must be profoundly appreciated each and every time. God’s grace is available to us at any moment.

The domestic church is the “source and summit of the Christian life,” as Pope St. John Paul II stated in his encyclical Familiaris Consortio (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, no. 10, and Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, no. 11).

Through the shutdown of our economy and society, families — the domestic church — have been brought together in ways we could have never imagined. Despite the many ways in which families have struggled emotionally, financially, and even spiritually at times, they have flourished through this experience. Routine family dinners happen where they never or rarely occurred before. Husbands and wives have spent time together that was previously occupied with commuting and juggling extracurricular activities. Siblings who had grown apart have spent time together, reconnecting friendships. College students are experiencing the wisdom of their parents in ways only made possible by the distance created in college life. Look at what happens when we spend time together and listen to one another!

The domestic church is where families pray together. God chose the Eucharist as a means to unite us to him deeply and truly. That should not be taken for granted. The Eucharist is the only means to our salvation. If the Eucharist were taken away from us, we would be destined for destruction. We must not lose sight of its importance.

The domestic church is where we come to sense and experience the heart of grace. This is where the body of Christ is present to us. The Eucharist is the source and summit of the faith. It is the only means by which we can come to share in the divine life. It is the only means by which we can enter into the mystery of the Incarnation. It is the only means by which we can make known the love of God.

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