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# WELCOME HOME

An Edge Issue Night on Family

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## LEADER OVERVIEW

All of us are born into a family. The family is the base community of all societies and it is in the family that children grow and are nourished in their knowledge of life and faith. Families can be complicated, they can be messy, and, sometimes, they can be broken. Despite all of this, God has given us our families for a reason and we are called to love and respect our family members and to be obedient to our parents. As adults this obedience looks different from that of a child: “As they grow up, children should continue to respect their parents. They should anticipate their wishes, willingly seek their advice, and accept their just admonitions. Obedience toward parents ceases with the emancipation of the children; not so respect, which is always owed to them. This respect has its roots in the fear of God, one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit” (CCC 2217).

Our families are the foundation of community in our lives, but God has also given us the gift of a greater community by our incorporation into His family through the Church. No one is meant to walk the journey of faith alone and through the universal Church we are given a universal family that we can be a part of no matter where we are in life or in the world. The Church is there as a safeguard and life source of our faith to nourish and sustain us in all our walks of life: “Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission” (CCC 1213).

It is not always easy to love and serve our family members, and it is not always easy to be in community with others, but God gives us a great commandment to love one another as He has loved us tell us that “greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13, Mark 12:31). Jesus is our greatest example of self sacrificial love, the same love that we are called to have for others. In our daily life, we are called to make little sacrifices of love for those around us for the greater good and strength of our relationship with them, whether it be someone in our family or in the church community.