

Familia Fidelis



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“The Christian family constitutes a specific revelation and realization of ecclesial communion, and for this reason it can and should be called a domestic church. It is a community of faith, hope, and charity....”

(Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2204)

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For Mom and Dad—“The Family as Educator of the Truth of Man”

“The most important issue to be faced by the family today in the Christian education of the children is not religious but essentially anthropological: the radical ethical-philosophical relativism. According to this, there is no objective truth about man and, consequently, about marriage and family. Sexual difference itself, manifested in the biology of male and female is not based on nature, but on a simple cultural product, that each can change according to their own understandings. This denies and destroys the existence of the institution of marriage and family itself.

Relativism also affirms that God does not exist and that it is impossible to know Him (atheism and agnosticism), and also that there are no lasting values or ethical norms. The only truths are those that stem from parliamentary majority. Given this very radical and conditioning reality, the family now has

the unavoidable task of transmitting the truth of man to their children. As it happened already in the early centuries, it is now of the utmost importance to know and understand the first page of Genesis: there is a good and personal God, who has created man and woman with the same dignity, yet different and complementary amongst themselves, and he has given them the task of having children through the indissoluble union of both in “one flesh” (marriage). The texts that narrate the creation of man illustrate that the man and woman couple – as designed by God – are the first expression of communion amongst persons, because Eve is created in the image of Adam as that, which in its otherness, completes him (Gen 2, 18) to form with him “one flesh” (Gen 2, 24). At the same time, they both have the procreative mission, which makes them collaborators of the Creator (Gen 1,28)

This truth of man and marriage has also been known by strict human reason. Indeed, all cultures have recognized in their customs and laws that marriage consists only of the communion of a man and a woman, although they occasionally have admitted polygamy and polyandry. Unions of the same sex have always been considered alien to marriage.

St. Paul described all of this very vigorously in his letter to the Romans, when describing the situation of paganism at his time and the moral disorder into which he had fallen because he did not want to recognize in life the God he had known through reason (Rom 1, 18-32). This New Testament page should be well learned by the family today, to avoid founding their teaching activity on quicksand. The ignorance of God also leads to the blurring of the truth about man.”

-Pontifical Council for the Family

For Teens— Evolution or Creation?

(From *Did Adam and Eve Have Belly Buttons?* by Matthew Pinto)

Question: “It seems to me that you have to believe that either evolution or creation is true. How can you believe both at the same time, as I hear some people say?”

Answer: “By holding that God used evolution as His way of forming human beings. In that sense, you could say the *only* way a Catholic can believe in evolution is *also* to believe in creation.

Now, the opposite is not true; you can believe in creation without affirming evolution.

“When some people (usually fundamentalist Protestants and atheists) place evolution and creation in opposition, they usually mean evolution by blind chance vs. creation in the sense of God literally fashioning man from ‘the dust of the earth’ and ‘breathing’ into him the ‘breath of life’ all in six twenty-four-hour days. Obviously, creation and

evolution in those senses cannot both be true. People think there is a conflict between creation and evolution because they think the only alternatives are the strict fundamentalist view and the atheistic materialist view. Fundamentalists insist the creation story in Genesis must be interpreted as strict history in every detail. For them, it is not enough to say the creation and fall of many really happened; they insist it must have happened according to their



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St. Thomas is the patron of Hungary, those who experience the death of a child, and stonemasons.



For Teens...Continued

literalistic reading of the Genesis narrative, without considering that parts of it may be poetic or allegorical. Atheistic materialist, on the other hand, say the creation of the human race (and the universe as a whole) was due to blind chance, without any divine intervention, whether by evolution or any other means.

“This is a false set of choices. If evolution is understood as a process designed by God, and creation as simply God’s act of bringing everything into exist-

tence in some way, then there need not be a conflict. The answer does not need to be either evolution or creation; it can be both evolution and creation.

“A Catholic may completely embrace the creation narrative as a historical depiction in every detail, but he is not required by the Church to do so, and he may not condemn other Catholics who do not agree with him. He may also embrace evolutionary theory as a scientific explanation, as

long as he doesn’t deny fundamental Christian truths such as: all things were created by a loving God; man is made in the image and likeness of God; whatever the origin of man’s bodily form, his soul is a special creation of God (it is not the result of an evolutionary process); our original parents were created in a state of perfect happiness but sinned against God and this original sin is passed on to all of us; they were promised a Redeemer.”

For Children—Life at the Pond



Life at the Pond is a Christian radio program designed for

children, but written so cleverly that it will entertain adults just as easily, making it a great addition to your family’s CD collection.

The greatest strength of *The Pond* programs is that they teach lessons for young and

old Christians through the use of comedy that is far superior to any other well known Christian radio drama programs (ex. *Adventures in Odyssey*). This is helpful because it makes the repetitive listening—so well known by any parent of a young child—actually enjoyable, instead of painful (who knew that was possible?).

The CDs are ideal for listening in the home or on trips in the

car. Our 4 year old considers it required listening as he settles in for bed. In addition to CD sets, MP3s and DVDs are also available at the show’s official website. Several local Christian radio stations also feature *The Pond* as a part of their Saturday morning programming. Check out their official site:

www.lifeatthepond.com

Friends for Families—St. Stephen of Hungary

When he was 22 years old St. Stephen and his father were baptized by St. Adalbert of Prague (his mother was already a Christian). When he was 26 he became the king of Hungary and was crowned by Pope Sylvester II.

At the age of 40 he married Gisela, the sister of emperor St. Henry II. Together they had a son, Emeric, whom Stephen groomed to be his successor by both word and

deed. He once instructed his son, “I urge you above all things to maintain the Catholic and apostolic faith with such diligence and care that you may be an example for all those placed under you by God and that all the clergy may rightly call you a man of true Christian profession. Failing to do this, you may be sure that you will not be called a Christian or a son of the Church.”

As king, Stephen was very

accessible to the people, particular the poor of his lands. It was his custom to disguise himself and walk among the streets so as to give money to those in need. Once, while engaged in this practice, he barely survived a severe beating at the hands of some beggars who robbed him. Nonetheless, Stephen continued to go out and give to the poor in disguise.

St. Stephen died in 1038.