

Domus Christiani



Group Charter



1. OUR PURPOSE

The sanctification of the home in the married state of life by:

... a deepened interior life

Couples deepen their interior life through prayer and the worthy reception of sacraments, sustained by their faithfulness to a rule of life and the mutual encouragement of a group of families.

They study doctrine and how to apply it to their lives in order to develop a better knowledge and love for God, and to help them make Him known and loved.

They learn to foster a devotion to Our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary, Queen of Families; homes are consecrated to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

*“...he that abideth in me, and I in him,
the same beareth much fruit.”
John XV, 5, Douay-Rheims Bible*

... mutual help and fraternal charity

*“... cleaving to that which is good.
Loving one another with the charity of
brotherhood, with honour preventing
one another.”
Romans XII, 9-10, Douay-Rheims Bible*



... a missionary spirit and outreach

“And so we ought to be, in some manner, apostolic people who take upon ourselves the noble task of sanctifying others: ... our “word” is the interior spirit formed, by grace, in our souls. Let this spirit then, give life to all the manifestations of our zeal; may our interior life be the stem, filled with vigorous sap, of which our works are the flowers.” (Dom J.-B. Chautard, The Soul of the Apostolate)

This missionary spirit will positively affect development of the group.

It is from one's interior life that personal commitment and group commitment will stem, for the good of the family and the world.

2. WHO WE ARE

Members

We are families from the same geographical area who have the desire and the will to grow together by relying on the living Tradition of the Catholic Church.



We commit to meeting as a group once a month.

We are guided by a priest, protector of doctrine and spiritual director for the group.

This spiritual director, chosen by the group with the General Coordinating Team, shall accept this ministry with *Domus Christiani* in the spirit of the Motu Proprio of July 2nd, 1988 (*liturgical books of 1962*).

We are guided by one family acting as the leader, with the agreement of the families in the group and the Regional Coordinating Team.

The family leading the group shall train another family who will replace it if need be, or who will take the lead of another group.

Coordination between Groups

A family responsible for a sector shall be responsible for three to six groups in one given area.

A family responsible for a region shall be responsible for several sectors.

A General Coordinating Team of families, assisted by a priest, shall oversee the work and the implementation of the charter, and shall work towards its progress in liaison with the other groups.

3. WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING

A rule for living a Christian life

Such a rule cannot be an end in itself. It is rather a means whereby deficiencies and inconstancy may be remedied, and some progress made. The various precepts it includes complement each other, and make up a whole, which is the ideal we strive for by the grace of God.



Each Day...

- Prayer by the spouses;
- Five minutes of mental prayer (alone or as a couple);
- Family rosary;
- Morning and evening prayers recited as a family;
- Grace before and after each meal (with Angelus);
- Examination of conscience on a specific item to strive for, and determined for that month at the last meeting.

Each Week...

- Attending Mass once a week (other than on Sunday);
- Preparing for Sunday Mass as a family;
- For about one hour, studying a point of doctrine, or spiritual reading.

Each Month...

- Meeting with your *Domus Christiani* group;
- Choosing one item to strive for during the next month as a group;
- Talk as a family about the essentials (spiritual life, faithfulness to the rule, spirit of penance, duties of one's state in life);
- Monthly confession (or every two weeks);

Each Year...

- Spiritual Retreat (3 to 5 day-long);
- Consecration (or renewal thereof) to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary (as a group or as a family).

4. THE GROUP MEETING

- Once a month in one of the homes (on a rotating basis);
- Either at the end or the beginning of the meeting, a meal prepared for by the hosting family. This is a perfect opportunity to welcome

and get to know new families;

-Prayer to the Holy Ghost and Hail Mary;

-Comments on one point of the rule (about 10 min.) by the previous month's host couple. This point can be commented on by one family and then discussed by all. This is a means whereby participants can make progress in their adherence to the rule. This can also become the item to strive for during the month;

-Presentation (30-45 min.) on a point of doctrine to help couples better understand the Christian life and missionary outreach, followed by a general discussion;

-Common prayer (15 min.). Summary of the theme studied during the meeting by the spiritual director or hosting family; silent prayer, and final prayer with special intentions for the Church and the Pope.

Any study of a point of doctrine, in order to be interesting and bear fruit, must:

-Have been examined by each family before the meeting;

-Have been thoroughly prepared by the family who will do the presentation, in liaison with the spiritual director;

-Have been planned ahead of time;

-After each meeting, the family in charge of the group will write a report summarizing the topic discussed, and will include information

on the life of the movement, and the group.

It is required that, regularly or at least every second year, three meetings be held on the following topics:

-A study of the basic principles for *Domus Christiani*, under the guidance of the family in charge of the group;

-A presentation on the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass by the spiritual director;

-A study of the Catholic doctrine of matrimony.

Other possible activities with other Domus Christiani groups:

-A family day in a given region (i.e. one Sunday per year, with Mass, a pick-nick, a spiritual conference, Vespers, Benediction...);

-An evening of prayer (every other month, with Mass, confession, conference, Benediction);

-Weekend retreat with daycare services provided, or retreats with children on one side, and parents on the other;

-Weekly rosary;

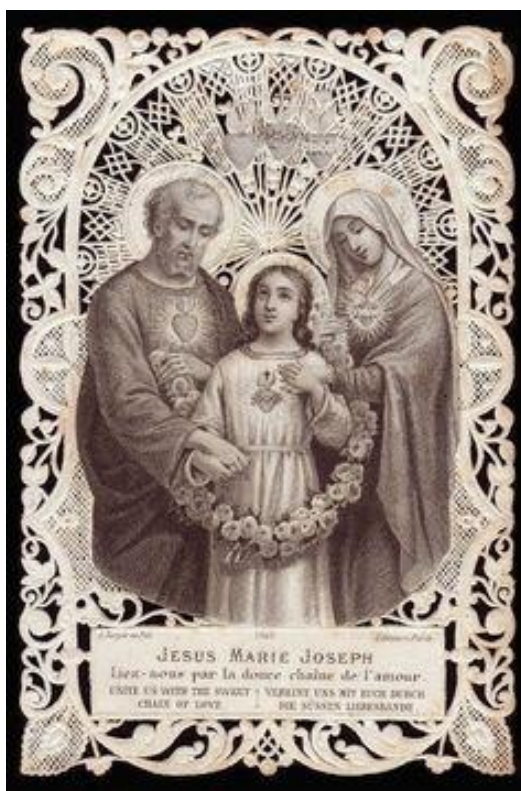
-Conferences;

-Charity, missionary work...



“Thus, within the ecclesial community, there will take place a mutual exchange composed of presence and mutual help among all the families, each one putting its own experience of life at the service of others, as well as their gifts of faith and grace. Animated by a true apostolic spirit, this assistance from family to family will constitute one of the simplest, most effective and most accessible means for transmitting from one to another those Christian values which are both the starting point and goal of all pastoral care.”

John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio, 1981.



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