



**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BELIZE  
CITY AND BELMOPAN  
BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA**



**JUNE: FAMILY MONTH 2023**

**THEME: AS FOR ME AND MY FAMILY, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD  
(Joshua 24:15)**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Holy Father never fails to remind us of the destructive effects of consumerism and selfishness. These two evils, as is evident around us, in the entertainment world and in many sectors of our society, have not made our world a better place to live in. These two evils serve only the wants, the desires and the greed of the individual.

In Ukraine, as well as in the United States, there is the cry to protect democracy, the democratic institution. The same can be said about the institution of Marriage and the Family, and the great need to save and to protect this institution, this Sacrament given to us by our God who created us, very good. Who could have ever thought that we would be on this mission to save the soul of marriage and family life? If we follow the way of God, his example, his guidance, nothing is ever complicated; but we complicate life for ourselves because we want to make it only about me, oneself.

We do not see a family as one person. We are the human family, the Christian family; we are brothers and sisters in Christ. We speak about our oneness living in this one Common Home called earth. We each do our part everyday to serve each other in love. One theologian “calls family the first among the institutions of love.” In writing, St. John Paul II writes, “without love the family is not a community of persons and, in the same way, without love the family cannot live, grow and perfect itself as a community of persons.”

The early church lived that spirit of family and love. They had meals together. They shared with one another, helping each other in need. On the shores of Galilee, Jesus lovingly called his apostles to come and eat, to experience the joy of being family. At every Mass, He never eats alone. He lovingly calls and invites us to come and eat, to feed our bodies and souls; to experience the joy of being family, brothers and sisters in Christ.

In writing, Stephen Pope says: “It takes a village to be a family.” This is because in a village, as it is in a family, in a society, in a church we know each other, we love each other, we serve each other young and elderly, rich or poor, we learn from each other as we serve together the one all-powerful God.

## **June 2023- Family month**

AS FOR ME AND MY FAMILY, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD (Jos 24:15) In love, Joshua points out to his people the source of all family life. He points out that he and his family have no life without a HEART, without the Lord God, outside of LOVE. How familiar is this line to you? “To whom shall we go, you have the words of everlasting life.” The Apostles, like Joshua and like a Christian family have life because of him who is the way, the truth and life.

Let’s not make family life complicated for ourselves. Let’s not go running all over the world trying to find true family life. We, who are members of his family, this “domestic church”, know true authentic family life when we see it and when we live it, faithfully and lovingly.

I hope and pray that with these few words, you will join me on this synodal journey to keep Marriage and Family life, as ordained by Almighty God, the source of our joy and daily life in Belize and beyond.

And so, with every inch of my being, I declare FAMILY MONTH- June 2023 OPEN!

In the Holy Family,

*+ Lawrence Nicasio*

Most Reverend Lawrence Sydney Nicasio  
Bishop of Belize City and Belmopan