



**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BELIZE CITY
AND BELMOPAN**

FAMILY MONTH- JUNE 2023

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



We thank our dear Bishop Larry for his constant, unwavering, love and support for Marriage and Family Life as ordained by God and for declaring the Month of June 2023 as FAMILY MONTH!

The mission of the Marriage and Family Life Ministry in Belize is to help restore and strengthen marriages and families God’s Way. We stand firm in believing the truth that marriages and families are gifts to be honored, cherished and preserved and are foundational to the Gospel for the glory of God and salvation of the world.

As St. John Paul II emphasized, “As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.”

Countless couples are struggling to remain together. Children are wrestling with questions about their identity and value in this world. No home is immune to these struggles.

Unfortunately, there is not much in today’s culture that reinforces God’s design for marriage and family. Hence, our Ministry’s zeal and urgency to work with our Church leaders to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in our homes across our nation.

Let’s be real. We live In a world where responsibilities, schedules, and to-do-lists pull at a family’s unity in Christ. For more reasons than we can ever imagine, the enemy will do everything he can do to stop us from finding the hope and help we need through prayer and an intimate relationship with our God.

It is a fact that as parents we shape the lives of our children in ways no other human being can. Before our children know God through Jesus, they will likely see Him through us. The love we pour into their lives, despite their sin and imperfections, allows them to experience the love and affection Jesus has for them.

INTENTIONAL PRAYER is so important. It takes work and sacrifice, but be encouraged, whether married or single parent, when we surrender our efforts to Jesus, He can transform our homes. Mathew 18:20 *“For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.”*
“The family that prays together stays together.” And *“A world at prayer is a world at peace.”*
(Fr Patrick Peyton CSC and similarly quoted by Mother Teresa of Calcutta.)

Mother Theresa also said, *“If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family.”*

PRAYER can be simple. You don't have to make it a huge ordeal. The next time you see your spouse, your child, or loved one, just take hold of their hand, stand, and pray:

"Lord, lead us through this day. Help us, we need You." Amen.

In the words of St. Therese the Little Flower – *"I have proved it many times that Prayer is more powerful than anything"*

During this special Family Month of June we encourage a Daily Moment of Prayer.

Designate a special time and location for family prayer. Why not start with one night each week to read a passage of Scripture and share what God is saying to you? Or you may want to pray

This Prayer:

Prayer for Families by Saint Pope St. John Paul II

**LORD GOD, from You every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.
Father You are love and life.**

Through Your Son Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through the Holy Spirit, the fountain of divine charity, grant that every family on earth may become for each successive generation a true shrine of life and love.

Grant that your grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives for the good of all families in the world.

Grant that the young may find in the family solid support for their human dignity and for their growth in truth and love.

Grant that love, strengthened by the grace of the sacrament of marriage, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass.

Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in the family and through the family.

**We ask this of You, Who is Life, Truth and Love with the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Enjoy, and God's abundant blessings to all God's precious families!

Stanley and Maureen Ermeav

Chairpersons: Diocesan Pastoral Life Commission on Marriage and Family Life Ministry

SUGGESTIONS FOR FAMILY MONTH

- Family Prayer for Families by Saint Pope John PAUL II to be recited at all Sunday and Weekday Masses during the Month of June.
- Invite prayer intentions to be placed in a Decorated Prayer Box placed behind Church and brought up to the alter weekly at Sunday Mass, during Offertory Procession and acknowledged by the celebrant.
(Rach parish can prepare Prayer cards made available to write petitions)
- During the month of June, presentation of a Holy Family Image to a family at one of the Sunday Masses to take home for veneration for one week and returned for another family to do the same the following week.
- Display of Month of the Family banner with theme.
- Decoration of Church for family month by consent of the Pastor.
- Grand finale Family Mass:
 - Procession of families into church
 - Bible Enthronement
 - Readings and Petitions by family
 - Homily on Family
 - Family tribute by a couple or family or family member
 - Cake or gift basket raffle
 - Blessings of all families in attendance

