



The Luminous Mysteries

What do we learn about the family in these mysteries?

1. The First Luminous Mystery: The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan

Then Jesus went to the Jordan to be baptised by John... and a voice from the heavens said: This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased (Mt 1:9-11).

We learn that mum and dad asked for our baptism and that we are beloved children of God.

“[Parents] can participate in God’s plan by dreaming of her child... You can’t have a family without dreams. Once a family loses the ability to dream, children do not grow, love does not grow, life shrivels up and dies... For Christian married couples, baptism necessarily appears as a part of that dream. With their prayers, parents prepare for baptism, entrusting their baby to Jesus even before he or she is born.” (cf AL 169).

* We remember the baptism day of our parent and children. If we haven’t received baptism, would we like to receive it?

2. The Second Luminous Mystery: The Wedding Feast at Cana

A wedding was being celebrated in Cana of Galilee and Jesus was there with his mother. As they ran out of wine, Mary said to Jesus: “They do not have wine.” Jesus answered her, saying: “What does that have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.” But his mother said to the servants: “Do whatever he tells you”. Thus, Jesus began his many signs, manifested his glory and the faith of his disciples in Him grew (Jn 2:1-5, 11).

We learn the value of marriage:

“In their union of love, the spouses experience the beauty of fatherhood and motherhood; they share projects; they learn to care for each other and to forgive each other. The joy for the life that is born and the loving care of all its members, from the little ones to the elderly, are only some of the fruits that make the family unique and irreplaceable.” (AL 73-88).

* Have we participated in a wedding? What do we remember of the celebration? What about the wedding feast?

3. The Third Luminous Mystery: Jesus' Proclamation of the Coming of the Kingdom of God

Jesus left for Galilee to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God. He said: "The time has come and the kingdom of God is already near. Convert and believe in the Gospel." (Mk 1:14-15).

We learn that families also announce that God loves us:

By their witness as well as their words, families speak to others of Jesus. They pass on the faith, they arouse a desire for God and they reflect the beauty of the Gospel and its way of life. Christian marriages thus enliven society by their witness of fraternity, their social concern, their outspokenness on behalf of the underprivileged, their luminous faith and their active hope. Their fruitfulness expands and in countless ways makes God's love present in society." (AL 184).

* Do we tell others that God loves us? In what ways do we do this?

4. The Fourth Luminous Mystery: The Transfiguration

And he transfigured before them, such that his face was made resplendent as the sun and his clothing white as light. And a voice from the cloud said: This is my Son, the Beloved, my chosen one, in whom I am well pleased; listen to him (Lk 9:29, 35).

We learn that parents and children need to express the love that they have for each other.

"The educational process that occurs between parents and children can be helped or hindered by the increasing sophistication of the communications and entertainment media. When well used, these media can be helpful for connecting family members who live apart from one another. Frequent contacts help to overcome difficulties. Still, it is clear that these media cannot replace the need for more personal and direct dialogue, which requires physical presence or at least hearing the voice of the other person." (AL 278).

* In which ways do we express love to our family? (Words, gestures, concrete acts)

5. The Fifth Luminous Mystery: The Institution of the Eucharist

At supper, Jesus took some bread, blessed it, broke it and passed it out, saying: "Take, this is my body". Afterwards, he took a cup, gave thanks and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take this, all of you, and drink it, this is my blood, the blood of the covenant" (Mt 26:26-28) .

We learn that it is beautiful to share the Eucharist as a family.

“A family’s living space could turn into a domestic church, a setting for the Eucharist, the presence of Christ seated at its table... The family is called to join in daily prayer, to read the word of God and to share in Eucharistic communion, and thus to grow in love and become ever more fully a temple in which the Spirit dwells.” (AL 29).

* We aim to share the Eucharist as a family.