

**FAMILY  
AND  
FINANCIAL HEALINGS**



# **FAMILY AND FINANCIAL HEALINGS**

## **PART -1**

### **CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE**

#### **Introduction**

God established three institutions: The first one being family (Gen. 2:18); the second one being Government (Rom. 13:1) and other one, the Church in the Trinitarian model (Mt. 16:18). If we do not take much care, these three institutions will become like hell on earth. Mutual sanctification and holiness of spouses and children are in the plan of God for marriage (1 Cor. 7:14-16). Broken relationship with God is one of the main reasons for broken families in the world. Family is a divine institution (Gen. 2:18) and every family takes its origin from God (Eph. 3:15). Family is the vineyard of God which should not be destroyed by weeds (Pope Francis I). God delights in three things which are most beautiful in the sight of God and humans (Sir. 25:1): Agreement between brothers and sisters; friendship among the neighbours and perfect harmony between husband and wife. Above all, family is a domestic church (CCCC 350, CCC 1655 & 1658). CCCC 350 states, “The Christian family is called the domestic church because the family manifests and lives out the communal and familial nature of the Church as the family of God.”

#### **Guidelines to Select the Right Life-Partner to Form One’s Own Family**

God says, ‘I will give you a suitable partner.’ (Gen. 2:18) How do you know who is given to you? First of all, you should have a strong desire to form your family. Then trace out the 5 agreements to find out the given partner. The one with who one has these five agreements is the God-given future partner. Go ahead with marriage arrangements.

- 1) Perfect agreement between the two persons
- 2) Perfect agreement between their parents
- 3) It should be in line with the religious law of the parties
- 4) It should be as per the Civil law of the nation, and also not contrary to divine law and faith.
- 5) There should be peace among the parties from the beginning till the sacramentalisation of the marriage.

#### **All Are Not Called For Marriage (Youcat - 265)**

Not everyone is called to marriage. Even people who live alone can have fulfilment in life. To many of them, Jesus shows a special way; He invites them to remain unmarried “for the sake of the kingdom of heaven” (Mt.19:12)and (CCC 1618-1620). Many people who live alone suffer from loneliness, which they perceive only as a lack and a disadvantage. Yet a person who does not have to care for a spouse or a family also enjoys freedom and independence and has time to do meaningful and

important things that a married person would never get to. Of course, a Christian vocation can never mean despising marriage or sexuality. Voluntary celibacy can be practiced only in love and out of love, as a powerful sign that God is more important than anything else.

### **Singles For Christ (CCC 1658)**

We must also remember the great number of single persons who, because of the particular circumstances in which they have to live - often not of their choosing - are especially close to Jesus' heart and therefore deserve the special affection and active solicitude of the Church, especially of pastors. Many remain without a human family often due to conditions of poverty. Some live their situation in the spirit of the Beatitudes, serving God and neighbour in exemplary fashion. The doors of homes, the 'domestic churches,' and of the great family which is the Church must be open to all of them. 'No one is without a family in this world: the Church is a home and family for everyone, especially those who 'labour and are heavy laden.'"

### **Will of God For Family**

Jer. 29:5-6 can be the mind of God for families. It implies that one should marry and allow their children to marry and have children and grandchildren. One's number should increase and not decrease. One should build one's own house and have a garden around it.

### **Ancestral Curse Will Not Affect the Families of the Believers (Jer. 31:29-30)**

You are called to inherit a blessing not a curse (1 Pt. 3:9). Ancestral curse may be effective in the life of non-believers. Believers in Christ Jesus are born again as children of God (Jn. 1:12). They are separated from their ancestors and grafted to Jesus the new Olive (Rom. 11:17). Then Jesus becomes their first ancestor. So, you and I, as believers will inherit all blessings from the tribe of Jesus which is the tribe of Judah. For believers Gal. 3:13 will ring true and they will share the blessings right from Abraham, through their faith in Jesus (Gal. 3:14).

### **6 Manifestations of Family Healings**

1. The present partner will become the best partner as water at the wedding of Cana turned into the best wine (Jn. 2:9)
2. Children will be spirit-filled (Ps 128:1-5)
3. will become like heaven on earth (Sir 25:1)
4. will turn into a domestic church (CCCC-350)
5. A house with a garden and children and grandchildren in it (Jer. 29:5-6)
6. One Heart, one mind, one spirit, one God and One worship for all family members.

### **Ends and Obligations of Marriage**

Fidelity and Fecundity:

CCC 2363 states "The spouses' union achieves the twofold end of marriage: the good of the spouses themselves and the transmission of life. These two meanings or values of marriage

cannot be separated without altering the couple's spiritual life and compromising the goods of marriage and the future of the family. The conjugal love of man and woman thus stands under the twofold obligation of fidelity and fecundity."

CCC 2365 reads "Fidelity expresses constancy in keeping one's given word. God is faithful. The Sacrament of Matrimony enables man and woman to enter into Christ's fidelity for his Church. Through conjugal chastity, they bear witness to this mystery before the world."

St. John Chrysostom suggests that young husbands should say to their wives: 'I have taken you in my arms, and I love you, and I prefer you to my life itself. For the present life is nothing, and my most ardent dream is to spend it with you in such a way that we may be assured of not being separated in the life reserved for us. . . . I place your love above all things, and nothing would be more bitter or painful to me than to be of a different mind than you.'

### **Invalid marriages**

God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16 and Lk. 16:18), and Jesus said what God has united man should not put asunder (Mt. 19:6). But certain marriages are to be annulled or dissolved, because these are not real marriages due to some reasons such as:

1. Lack of due consent (due to mental diseases, substance abuse, force and fear, lack of due discretion etc)
2. Non consummation of the marriage due to lack of penetration and ejaculation inside the vagina or impotence and frigidity etc.
3. Diriment impediments (existing marriage, ministerial priesthood, religious vows, prohibited degree of consanguinity etc)
4. Some marriages turned invalid due to these causes: *Contra bonum fidei, Sacramenti, prolis and coniugum* (against the good of fidelity, sacraments, children and welfare of the partner)
5. Simulation of the marriage.

### **Few Challenges to Contemporary Marriages**

Legalised same sex marriage; pre-marriage and extra marriage relationships; cohabitation, concubinage, single parents, unhealthy feminism, surrogate motherhood, divorce and remarriage, only civil marriage, corroding of value systems, undue influence of media, trial marriages, free unions, civil divorce, abortion, euthanasia, decision not to have children, prayerlessness, misunderstanding and lack of communication, lack of mutual love, unforgiveness, mixed marriages, prostitution and others are few challenges to contemporary marriages.

### **Some Remedies to Family Problems**

Youcat 264 queries, "“What threatens marriages”? What really threatens marriages is sin; what renews them is forgiveness; what makes them strong is prayer and trust in God's presence." CCC 1606-1608 elaborate on this further. You Cat 264 continues with its comment, "Conflict between men and women, which sometimes reaches the point of mutual hatred in marriages, of all places, is not a sign that the sexes are incompatible; nor is there

such a thing as a genetic disposition to infidelity or some special psychological disability for lifelong commitments. Many marriages, however, are endangered by a lack of communication and consideration. Then there are economic and societal problems. The decisive role is played by the reality of sin: envy, love of power, a tendency to quarrel, lust, infidelity, and other destructive forces. That is why forgiveness and reconciliation, in confession as well, is an essential part of every marriage.”

1. Spirit of dialogue
2. Spirit of forgiveness
3. Spirit of Family prayer and interest to read the Word of God
4. Confession when there is sin
5. Holy Mass and Communion form part of remedies to family problems.

### **This is a real and practical remedy. How to do it?**

1. Consecration prayer- Pg. 15 of Logos prayer booklet
2. Family prayer- Pg. 24 of Logos prayer booklet
3. Offer one chaplet according to the format given in page 24 (Pages 21-23 of Logos prayer booklet with due modifications according to the format in page 24)

### **Ten reflections on Christian Family**

These ten reflections help everyone to respect marriage and to form their own family. Every family takes its origin from God (Eph. 3:15). Family is included in the plan of God. It is a necessity for the existence of humanity and the well-being of humankind. So, God will help humanity to repair broken relationships.

**1. God hates divorce** - Mal. 2:16 and Lk. 16:18 - and Jesus said what God has united man should not put asunder Mt. 19:6, but certain marriages are to be annulled because they are not real marriages due to some reasons (Ref. Invalid marriages).

#### **2. Family is a divine institution** - Gen 2:18,24

Gen 2:18 reads “Then the LORD God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” And verse 24 elaborates, “Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.” Jer. 29:5-6 reveal that marriage, family, house with garden, children, grandchildren and others are in the plan of God, if one is not called for religious life.

**3. Family is a domestic church** - CCC 350 – So, why is the Christian family called a domestic church (CCC 1655-1658 and 1666)? “The Christian family is called the domestic church because the family manifests and lives out the communal and familial nature of the Church as the family of God. Each family member, in accord with their own role, exercises the baptismal priesthood and contributes toward making the family a community of grace and of prayer, a school of human and Christian virtue and the place where the faith is first proclaimed to children.”

**4. Marriage is a Sacrament** - It is an eternal covenant and not a contract, between man and woman. Invisible grace comes to the couple through the visible signs which are established by Jesus and approved by the Church. Therefore, it is a Sacrament.

**5. To solve all problems in the family we have to turn to Jesus** -Zacchaeus turned to Jesus to solve his problems in the family. Jesus said “Today this family is saved” (Lk. 19:9-10). Some people resort to help from police, court, human assistance and others to solve their family problems. But not much is achieved due to that.

**6. Jesus did his first miracle in a family to save a marriage** - (Jn. 2:1-10) - That same Jesus is waiting for you to solve and compensate your insufficiencies and short comings in the family and marriage. The existing partner will be turned as the best partner as the water was changed into the best wine in Cana, if only we invite Jesus into our family.

**7. Believe in the Lord you and your family will be saved** - (Acts. 16:31) - Jesus saves your family on account of your faith in Jesus, even though members in your family do not believe in Jesus or offer prayers. For example, God blessed the Egyptian on account of Joseph and his faithfulness (Gen. 39:5).

**8. Dangers in the marriage** – Please refer to Youcat 264.

**9. All are not called for marriage** – Please refer to Youcat 265.

**10. Singles for Christ** – Please refer to CCC 1658.

### **The Holy Bible on Marriage**

God joins man and woman - Let not man separate what God has joined was Jesus’ comment on marriage (Mt. 19:6). God had joined man and woman. Every life partner is God’s gift provided that they are not living in unchastity. God gave Adam, Eve, as his wife. God arranged all that (Gen. 2:22). Isaac married Rebecca. Laban commented: “The thing comes from the Lord; we cannot speak ill or well of it” (Gen. 24:50). God said to Joseph: Fear not to take Mary as wife (Mt. 1:20)

### **Four Basic Biblical Concepts about Marriage**

**1. Life-partner is not to be rejected or abandoned** - If God approves the selection of one’s life-partner through the sacrament of marriage, that selection will never go wrong. Hence, the life-partner should never be rejected. “Let not man separate what God has joined” (Mt. 19:6). They are no longer two but they are one. Till death they are to be one. Love each other as if they constituted one body. As the baby feels pain in its arm, the mother too feels the same. Similarly, marital relationship enables the couple to feel the partner’s physical and psychic problems as of one body. “Except for unchastity the wife is not to be divorced” (Mt. 19:9). ‘Unchastity’ here means illegitimate cohabitation. As it involves sin, it has to be terminated. There is no genuine marriage-relation there. ‘Unchastity’ then is not the sin of occasional infidelity.

**2. Marriage is a mystery** - The two become one; it is a great mystery (Eph. 5:32). Matrimony is a great mystery beyond human understanding. Only those who regard marital union as a mystery succeed in married life. From the day of marriage, Jesus bestows the husband and the wife a special love for each other. That is, His own love. His own love is love unto death, towards His church. Therefore, even in the infirmities of the partner, the other is capable of loving patiently. Since Jesus grants abiding love, the Catholic Church is against divorce. As difficulties arise in married life, approach Jesus and pray: Lord, I accept

the great mystery of matrimony, strengthen me. Then Jesus will turn the existing partner as the best partner as He changed water into wine of best quality (Jn. 2:10).

**3. It is for Mutual Sanctification** - “For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her husband” (1 Cor. 7:14). Married life is an invitation for mutual sanctification. Why do excellent ladies get married to men with imperfections? Or vice versa? The good lady is to reclaim her husband through prayer and loving conduct. “Wives, be submissive to your husbands, so that some, though they do not obey the word, may be won without a word, by the behaviour of their wives, when they see your reverent and chaste behaviour” (1 Pt. 3: 1-2). Several wives indignant at their husbands’ drunkenness and other weaknesses, try to reform them, but surely fail in the attempt, many a times. When she conforms herself to Jesus and commences to behave calmly, recognizing and accepting her husband with all his weaknesses, gradually the husband gets better.

**4. Marriage is a Sacrament** - Through the visible signs of the sacrament of marriage the couples get supernatural unseen grace to love, support and sanctify each other. God has established marriage as a sacrament and it is the first social institution for mutual love, companionship, support, propagation of children and others. It is for the good of the existence of human race (Gen. 2:18) and development and nourishment of the universe (Gen. 2:15).

### **Duties of the Wife**

**1. Wives should be subject to their husbands (Eph. 5:22-24)** - As the Church is subject to Christ, so let wives also be subject in everything to their husbands. Never speak ill of the husband. As the husband corrects the children, don’t take the side of the children and disrespect the husband.

**2. Wife should respect the husband (Eph. 5:33)** - Wife should deal with husband innocently and honourably. That will regenerate the husband (1 Pt. 3:2). Exterior glamour is not the real grace of wife. The interior grace with gentle and quiet spirit is precious in God’s sight (1 Pt. 3:4).

### **3. Some of the Biblical Expectations**

- A good wife seeks her husband’s happiness, rather than her own (Eccl. 26:2)
- A good wife works with willing hands (Prov. 31:13)
- An early riser, she regulates everything (Prov. 31:15)
- She examines and corrects herself (Prov. 31:18)
- She helps the poor and the needy (Prov. 31:20)
- She converses about good things (Prov. 31:26)
- Her devotion to God makes her praise worthy (Prov. 31:30)

## Duties of the Husband

**1. Husbands should love their wives (Eph. 5:25)** - As Christ loved the Church, husbands should love their wives. Christ died for the Church. If need arises, the husband should be prepared to die for his wife. Love demands that.

**2. Do not desire a woman for her possessions (Eccl. 25:21)** - The husband should sanctify himself sacrificing his self. Christ sacrificed himself, to safeguard the church without spot or wrinkle (Eph. 5:25-27). He should love the wife as one's own body. In case the body is wounded, as we try to heal it, the husband should be kind to the wife and strive to rectify her deficiencies and defects.

**3. The husband is expected to foster his wife** - As Christ guards His Church, the husband too should guard his wife. A good husband takes care of all the needs of his wife, like food, dress and others.

**4. The husband should have consideration for his wife (1 Pt. 3:7)** - "Husbands, live considerately with your wives, bestowing honour on the woman as the weaker sex, since you are joint heirs of the grace of life in order that your prayers may not be hindered" (1 Pt. 3:7).

**5. The husband should not feel lust but love towards his wife (Tob. 8:7)** - Marital relations call for unblemished love, not lust of the flesh. Love means to stand in favour of a person, even though that person does not deserve it. For instance, God's love towards humankind is the model for love of spouses too. Lust stands only for sexual pleasures.

**6. The husband should pray with his wife (Tob. 8:4)** - God-fearing husband obtains God's blessings. He, his wife and their children will be good (Ps. 128:1-6).

## Duties of the Couples

**1. Marital obligations of the couple** - The husband should fulfil his marital obligations to his wife; so too the wife. The husband, not the wife, has dominion over her body and vice versa. Except on mutual consent as they practice chastity for concentrating on prayer, they should not deny their mutual obligations. After such short breaks, they should definitely 'come together again', lest Satan tempt them through lack of self-control (1 Cor. 7:3-6). CCC 2362 explains, "The acts in marriage by which the intimate and chaste union of the spouses takes place are noble and honourable; the truly human performance of these acts fosters the self-giving; they signify and enriches the spouses in joy and gratitude." Sexuality is a source of joy and pleasure: "The Creator himself . . . established that in the [generative] function, spouses should experience pleasure and enjoyment of body and spirit. Therefore, the spouses do nothing evil in seeking this pleasure and enjoyment. They accept what the Creator has intended for them. At the same time, spouses should know how to keep themselves within the limits of just moderation."

**2. Maintain good relations with parents** - "A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh" (Eph. 5:31). The Psalm chanted in marriage liturgy is significant. "The beauty of the princes is all internal. Forget your people and your father's house" (Ps. 45:10). From the day of marriage, in a man's life, next to God, the most important person is his wife. In the wife's case the husband. Since husband and wife have become one, together they deal with parents. No father or mother is to take decisions



about one's wife. The husband, who packs his wife to her home on the behest of his father or mother, and vice versa, goes counter to the commandment of God.

**3. Consider marriage as a Covenant** - "A man who breaks his marriage vows says to himself, who sees me? Darkness surrounds me, the walls hide me, and no one sees me. Why should I fear? He does not realize that the eyes of the Lord are ten thousand times brighter than the sun" (Eccl. 23:18, 19). The woman deceiving her husband, indulging in harlotry is cursed (Eccl. 23:23-26). The marriage covenant was made in the presence of God. Forget not, even when no one notices, God sees. There are no conditions attached to a covenant as in the case of a contract. Marriage is an unconditional union between husband and wife. Even though one partner does not fulfil the obligations, other partner has no right to refrain from one's own obligations towards the partner, children, relatives and others, because marriage is a covenant not a contract.

**4. Consider marriage as an indissoluble bond** - The wife should not separate from husband. But if she does, let her remain single or else be reconciled to her husband. The husband should not divorce his wife (1 Cor. 7:10-12; Mt. 19:6).

**5. Do Prayers and Bible Study together**- "O Lord God, thou art God and thy words are true, and thou hast promised this good thing to thy servant. Now therefore may it please thee to bless the house of thy servant, that it may continue forever before thee" (2 Sam. 7:28,29). Let husband and wife pray together and get spiritually strengthened. "If two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my father in heaven" (Mt. 18:19). It is good to remember the above cited Word of God for use and to practise in the family.

**6. Rely mutually** - The husband should not think: 'I am master at home. I will do as I please.' The wife too should not be self-willed. "In the Lord woman is not independent of man nor man of woman" (1 Cor. 11:11). Who is more important, you or I? Such a question should not arise in married life. Like the two wings of a bird are the husband and the wife. The bird cannot fly by fluttering one wing alone.

**7. Accept the primacy of God** - Give first place to God in your life. God has joined the couples according to their mutual consent. Let God who has joined the husband and wife, not be forgotten. The moment they begin to live ignoring God, family life crumbles. As problems and difficulties crop up, resort to God in prayer and await God's help in solving them. God will definitely bless those whom He has joined, provided they resort to Him in their difficulties. God will communicate with them as He communicated with Joseph. Fear not to take your wife (Mt. 1:20).

## **Parents and Children**

**1. Don't provoke children to anger (Eph. 6:4)** - Parents should be particularly vigilant on this point. As they converse with children, admonish them, punish them; they should not provoke them. Many children don't like the very mention of their parents. Which child does not dislike a drunken father keeping indecent company? Several parents gladden the minds of their children. Dr. Christian Bernard who performed the first heart surgery used to visit frequently his home where he had spent his boyhood with his parents. He kept his ancestral home intact. He used to say whenever he went there, he was reminded of his loving father and mother who invoked God's blessings on him and that it gave him immense joy.

**2. Bring up children as the Lord's disciple** - Fathers, bring your children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4). Some families practice giving severe kinds of punishments to their children, yet children seldom improve. Some parents resort to tying the children to a stake in order to beat them. Don't punish children to appease the parents' anger. The children should be induced to virtue by making them realize their mistake. Michael Angelo recalls how he became famous as a painter. As a boy once he drew with carbon on his mother's frock. Instead of scolding me, mummy corrected me. Next day itself she bought me paper and pencil. Mother's encouragement fostered the artist in me. Love should be the motive behind correcting children (1 Tim. 1:5). If parents neglect in bringing up of the children, God will discipline the parents for that very reason. About Eli, God said: 'I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity, which he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them' (1 Sam. 3:13). He who disciplines his son will profit by him (Eccl. 30:2). Take pains to discipline your son (Eccl. 30:13). Do not withhold discipline from a child, if you beat him with a rod he will not die. If you beat him with the rod, you will save his life from inferno (Sheol) (Prov. 23:13). He who loves his son is diligent to discipline him (Prov. 13:24). A child left to his own brings shame to his mother (Prov. 29:15).

**3. Discipline your children in right time** - "Pamper a child and he will frighten you" (Eccl. 30:9). Sacred Scripture teaches children should not be spoilt by pampering, by not punishing or refraining from discipline when needed. Giving them access to money and position before time too spoils them (Eccl 30:10-13). Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him (Pro. 22:15).

**4. Give children their due in right time** - Tobit before dying counselled his son on all money matters pertaining to him (Tob. 4:3-21). Do not indulge in favouritism in partitioning the property. "If you show partiality, you commit sin" (James 2:9; Deut. 21: 15-17).

**5. The question of the vocation of children** - Abraham commissioned his steward to find out the proper mate for his son Isaac (Gen. 24:2-4). Naomi told Ruth, her daughter-in-law: "My daughter shall I not seek a home for you that it may be well with you? (Ruth 3:1). Parents should take special care about the vocation of their children. They should not encourage, or induce children to a state of life not to their taste and call."

**6. Set good example** - Sacred Scripture reminds us of the proverb: 'like mother, like daughter' (Ezek. 16:44). Abijam walked in all the sins, which his father did before him (1 Kgs 15:3). The example of the parents is followed by the children easily. One would wonder how a crab, that moves sideways, can teach its young ones to proceed straight? Just as the erring parent cannot correct his/her child.

### **Duties of Children Towards Their Parents**

**1. Obey and honour your parents (Eph. 6:1-4).** The Decalogue categorically insists on honouring parents. As long as Solomon heeding his father David's counsel, kept the law of God, he flourished. His ruin commenced as he discarded the law of God (1 Kgs 2:2-5; Eccl. 3:1-2; Prov. 13:1-4).

**2. In adversity too, keep company to parents.** Ruth even after the death of her husband, did not desert Naomi, her mother-in-law (Ruth 1:14). She insisted to stay with her mother-in-law till her death. She worked to support her mother-in-law.

**3. Do not grieve your parents in their old age (Eccl. 3:12).** The Lord confirmed the right of the mother over her sons (Eccl. 3:2). Abandon not the father (Eccl. 3:16). He who chases away his mother brings reproach (Prov. 19:26).

**4. He who scorns his mother will be punished (Prov. 30:17).** The son who remains stubborn and rebellious even after correction deserves death sentence (Deut. 21:18-20).

**5. The paramount of fear of God.** “To die childless is better than to have ungodly children” (Eccl. 16:3). Tobith exhorted his son: “Do not walk in the ways of wrong doing” (Tob. 4:5).

“In pride there is ruin and great confusion; and in shiftlessness there is loss and great want, because shiftlessness is the mother of famine” (Tob. 4:13).

**6. Wages and alms.** “Do not ever hold till the next day the wages of any man who works for you” (Tob. 4:14). Give more, when you get more (Tob. 4:8). Tobith reminded his son of his duties.

### **Children are God's Gift! Do Not Prevent Their Birth, Let Them Come Into This World.**

We need Spirit-filled children right from the womb of the mother (Lk. 1:40). Spirit-filled children will be very clever (Dan. 6:3). They will be a blessing in your family and not a burden. They will find their way if they are Spirit-filled. You need not spend too much for their education or treatment if they are guided by the Holy Spirit. They will be taught by God and your children will be called God’s own children (Is. 54:13). They will get scholarship and merits. Daily pray for the anointing of the Holy Spirit up on your children. Day one onwards they will bring God’s blessings in your life. We read in the book of Maccabees: “I do not know how you came into being in my womb. It was not I who gave you, life and breath, not I who set in order the elements within each of you” (2 Macc. 7:22). God forms humans. Children are God’s gift. “Sons are a heritage from the Lord, the fruits of the womb a reward” (Ps. 127:3). The Holy Bible teaches that you should have children and grandchildren and a house with garden (Jer. 29:5-6).

### **How Many Children Are Needed in Each Family?**

The Church recommends responsible parenthood. That means as many as you can afford or foster in a decent and healthy manner. There should be a minimum of three children in all families. Ps. 113:9 quotes, ‘a barren woman will have a house and she will become a joyful mother of many children.’ There will not be any population explosion with three children in each family, but only a slight increase of population. Otherwise, your family will decline or grow extinct very soon. Your traditions might not be handed over to the future generations and there might not be enough population in this world.

## **Conclusion**

Parents and children should not forget their past in the midst of their present affluence. Children should not forget the sacrifices parents had made for their sake. Now the children might be handsome or celebrities, wealthy or healthy. Haven't your father and mother laboured much for you? An incident in the life of a famous person in India goes on that one day he wept while dining on delicacies from costly dishes in the Presidential Palace. He told a comrade the reason: "As I was a boy, our family was poor. Father as a teacher got only a meagre salary. By the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month, there was no money. One day getting ready to go to school, I wept because of hunger. My mother borrowed rice from the neighbouring house and prepared rice gruel. Not having money to buy plantain leaf, mother served it on the floor itself, saying, 'Sonnie, don't worry, you eat.'" We should never forget the sacrifices parents have undergone for our sake. Couples should not forget the sacrifices (for the sake of love and not lust) that they made to make the other partner happy or for the welfare of the family.

## **PART -2**

# **FINANCIAL HEALING**

### **Introduction**

Honour God with your wealth or substance (Pro. 3:9). Then your vats will overflow and barns will be full with grains (Pro. 3:10). The Catholic Church recommends moderate prosperity for all people and believers (Docat 164). Moderate prosperity is only a consequence of our intimacy with Jesus. At the same time Church teaches that prosperity is not the external sign of intimacy with Jesus or good relationship with God. The Bible shares about three riches that believers shall enjoy. They are material riches, riches of the knowledge of Jesus and riches of the Word of God (1 Cor. 1:5). We all are in need of wealth and finances to fulfil all our responsibilities towards our family, Church, Society and State. Our effort, work and talents may not be sufficient enough to have the required resources; hence we are in need of God's blessings. The blessings of the Lord will make you rich (Pro. 10:22). It is our effort and God's blessings that will make us financially rich and sound. God blessed Abraham spiritually and financially. The blessings of the Lord helped him to multiply in number and become immensely rich (Gen. 12:1-3). This Abrahamic blessing will be shared and inherited by all those who believe in Jesus (Gal. 3:14).

### **What is Financial Healing?**

There are 7 manifestations, if you and I are financially blessed and healed. Let us analyse all these seven manifestations.

- 1. Earning, spending and keeping wealth do not affect our eternal life (Mt. 6:26)**  
-Catechism of the Catholic Church 517 (CCC) points out that through the poverty of Jesus, we, His followers share in His prosperity. The poverty of Jesus makes us rich (2 Cor. 8:9). The religious, who take a vow of poverty share the poverty of Jesus. They make others rich through their prayers and blessings just as Jesus did (Mt. 14:19).
- 2. We shall always have enough and more to enjoy; to fulfil all our responsibilities; to share our resources with the needy; and invest for future development - 2 Cor. 9:8**  
educates that, our God will provide all our needs abundantly. So, we are called to inherit prosperity and not poverty or scarcity. Docat 164 advocates moderate prosperity for all believers. Prov. 30:8 and 9 describe moderate prosperity. A prayer, too is read out, 'do not make me a poor man or a rich man. Provide only what I need. If I am poor, I would curse you. If I am rich, I will forget you.'
- 3. Wealth does not affect the intimacy or relationship with Jesus -** In Lk. 12:15 Jesus says that one's life does not depend upon the abundance of one's wealth. So, try to be rich in the knowledge of Jesus and His Father. In Lk. 12:19, Jesus says luxurious life is a sin and it will affect our life negatively. This man said to himself 'I have enough and more even for four generations. So, relax, eat, drink and make merry.' But Jesus said this man, "...today I will ask for your soul" and this man died

that very night. After the death of that rich man who is going to enjoy his possessions? So do not be like this rich fool.

- 4. Wealth is not the end but it is only a means to attain eternal life and heavenly favour** - In Lk. 15:11 Jesus appreciated a cunning steward. Why? This steward used to subvert the possessions of his Master and he had been mismanaging his Master's wealth. When this mismanagement was informed to the Master, he terminated the steward from his responsibilities. But the steward quickly collected the disbursed actual amount with normal interest from the clients and modified the documents and forfeited his commission. The steward then handed over the collected amount to the Master. By this act, the steward won the appreciation and favour of his Master and became his friend. In the same manner, we have to spend our wealth and the wealth of others entrusted to us to please our heavenly Master Jesus and earn friends in this world through charity.
- 5. All our needs are providentially taken care of** – Dt. 2:7 remarks, that when God was guiding the Israelites to the Promised Land through the leadership of Moses, they did not lack anything for 40 years. God had provided them with everything. Is. 55:1-3 describes the providential supply by God Almighty of even delicious food to eat, milk to drink and sweet honey to enjoy without payment. So, Prophet Isaiah invited all the poor people to the providence of God.
- 6. Non-existence of poverty among the believers** - Acts 4:34 showcases that there were no poor people in the early Church. The Ministry of the Church makes the people rich and the people make their Nation and Church rich by their tax, tithe and offerings respectively. Even today, this is the Ministry of the Church. It is to make the people rich through prayers and blessings in the Church.

When I was in Mumbai, one poor fisher woman met me at the Mumbai University gate where I was a student, staying in the University Hostel. She told me that somebody had done black magic so that her business would fail. So, she sold none of her fish for the past 3 days, then. She even mentioned that she had been starving. On hearing about her pathetic situation, I wanted to help her by giving Rs. 500/- that I had in my pocket at that time. When I took out the money from my pocket and was about to give it to her, the Holy Spirit told me: 'How long will you feed her with Rs. 500/-? He also told me to put it back into my pocket as it was meant for ministry work and not for social work. The Holy Spirit further taught me that I have something more precious than silver and gold and I should give it to her. I understood that the message was from Acts. 3:6. Then I bound the spirit of black magic and cast it out from her and sent it to the feet of Jesus. Thus, I did the Binding and Casting out prayer and I blessed her with the blessing of Elijah (1 Kgs 17:14) and the Messianic blessing as in Mt. 14:19-21 and 17:27. Elijah's blessing is for multiplication of existing resources. And Messianic blessing is for multiplication of resources and skills which are given in the hands of Jesus through an act of surrender.

After the prayer, that fisher woman left for her home. The following month she met me at the University gate and told me, 'Father after you had prayed and blessed me, all the people started coming to my Sales Counter to buy the fishes and within 1 hour

my stock of fish was sold out. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day I took 2 baskets full of fishes and that too got sold out within 1 hour. So, I employed 6 ladies to help me to sell my increased stock of fishes and within 1 month I got enough finances to open a rented cold storage outlet. Please come and bless my cold storage outlet.' I went and blessed her Business Centre.

Three months later, on the same day and the same time, she was waiting at the University Gate for me. She then told me that she had purchased that rented cold storage outlet and requested me to come once again and bless the cold storage unit. I went and blessed the place.

The following month too, this woman was standing at the same place and at the same time to meet me. On seeing her, this time I got a little annoyed and troubled as I wondered whether after borrowing the money and opening up her new Business Centre, she might have lost everything. I was imagining whether all the debtors were pressurizing her to return the money borrowed. Then she handed over a cover to me and said 'this is Rs.10,000/- for you. It is part of my tithe for your ministry.' I asked her whether she was able to afford it. She then replied "I am able to give you even more. Now I am rich." At this juncture, my thoughts rewinded to the evening 4 months back when I was not allowed to give her Rs.500/- but that now she is able to provide me Rs.10,000/- as tithe.

**It is evident that through the prayers of the Pastors, God, restores prosperity to His people and sets them free from bondages and black magic. The blessings of the Pastors make people rich and also set them free from spell and curse so that they may be able to make their Church and State rich through their tithe and tax respectively. They are also able to help the poor to make them rich and strong.**

- 7. The Vow of Poverty** is something noble but the real material poverty is a social evil which is to be eliminated. Mk. 10:21 highlights the Vow of Poverty. Jesus lovingly looked at that man as he had a vocation to religious life. So, Jesus asked the man to go and sell all his possessions, give it to the poor and then come and follow Him. But this man did not accept this invitation and it made him very sad. St. Peter had taken vow of poverty and Jesus promised him 100-fold of remuneration for his renunciation and also guaranteed eternal life.. Those who have vow of poverty should make others rich by their prayers. Jesus has vow of poverty and he makes others rich (CCC 517 and 2 Cor. 8:9). There is no meaning of vow of poverty if religious do not make others rich as Jesus did through his poverty.

All people do not have this kind of divine call. Those who have a call to religious life must undertake this Vow of Poverty and make the poor as rich persons. The best example is St. Francis Assisi. He had everything and he renounced it and made people rich by his prayer and blessings. In return, people made his congregation rich with their tithe and love offerings. The Franciscan community became rich but the members remained poor in the imitation of Christ. If you do not have a religious vocation, please try to enjoy moderate prosperity according to the Magisterial teaching of the Catholic Church (Docat 164).

## How to Use Wealth Wisely in Order to Increase it?

- 1. Give all Government Taxes-** Maximum tax is fixed at 35% in many nations. Some other nations tender more taxes (Rom. 13:1-2 and 6-7). The remaining part of around 65 % is with you and for upkeep and development.
- 2. Give Tithe** – It is 10%- of the net income, after taxation.  
Half of the Tithe (5% of net income) - Give for the poor in orphanages, rehab centres etc. or to the parish for pastoral evangelization if needed and remaining of the tithe to retreat centres for Proclamation of the Word of God (Direct Evangelization) or missionaries, etc. (10% of the 65% is 58.5%).
- 3. Give love offering if you do not have net income-** All those who do not have tithe; may give only love offering according to the above ratio of the tithe. This is to be done according to their ability. That is to assist the needs of the Church according to one's own ability.
- 4. After tax and tithe or love offering,** around 58.5 % is for you and your family or your personal use. And Docat 163 states that you should not live in luxury but after moderate spending you may invest your remaining 58.5% for Business just to create job opportunities and help the nation in its developments.

## How to Solve Problems in Finances?

Please do 7 things if you have some problems with your finances.

**1. Admit that wealth is a gift of God (1 Tim. 6:17).** “The blessing of the Lord makes you rich, and he adds no sorrow to it” (Prov. 10:22). But you have to put all your effort and work to earn (2 Thess. 3:10). We are only the keepers of our wealth. “He said, ‘Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.’” (Job1:21).

### **2. Do not give first place to wealth. How to solve your problems in your finances?**

It is selfish and idolatrous to give first place to wealth, worldly comforts or to power and position (Col. 3:5).

### **3. Give tithe and love offering**

“Will anyone rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you say, ‘How are we robbing you?’ In your tithes and offerings! You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me - the whole nation of you! Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing. I will rebuke the locust for you, so that it will not destroy the produce of your soil; and your vine in the field shall not be barren, says the Lord of hosts” (Mal3:8-12).

It is breaking the commandment if we do not give one tenth of the amount we have, after meeting the expenses. It is not one tenth of the gross income that is to be given. If one has no net income, one does not need to give tithe. But he has to give love offerings. Whatever



we give according to our abilities for Gospel work is a love offering. Only then shall we be delivered from bondage in the financial sphere.

Give half of the tithes for Gospel work. Either we must do the Gospel work ourselves or we must entrust the amount to Gospel workers. The remaining half of the tithe must be given to the poor. We must give either directly to the poor or to those who serve the poor. As for love offering, it is better to give it directly to the churches and to missionary work. The amount given for church activities, retreat centers, helping the poor and for social work may be considered as tithe.

Sir. 35: 11 With every gift show a cheerful face, and dedicate your tithe with gladness. Verse 12 Give to the Most High as he has given to you, and as generously as you can afford. Verse 13 For the Lord is the one who repays, and he will repay you and verse 14 says Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it. God loves a cheerful giver 2 Cor. 9:7

#### **4. Do not Squander when you have enough**

We should be good stewards when we live (Ref:1Pet, 4:10). The master rejects and punishes the servant who does not properly use the talent given him by the master (Mat. 25:30). Wealth should not be handled irresponsibly.

#### **5. Do not use wealth to hurt others**

Wealth, talents and abilities given to us by God are for others too. We should use them to do good; not to hurt or cause pain to others.

#### **6. Never Earn Wealth Through Illegal Means (Pro. 10: 2)**

Illegal wealth is to be given to the legal owner. It is not useful for you. If the legal owner and heirs are not alive, give half to the poor and half for proclamation of the gospel.

#### **7. Proper Planning and Annual Budget**

Lk. 14:28-30 shares about planning and budget. It is to be calculated as to what is needed to build a tower. You have to evaluate before you begin to build a tower and if you do not have enough to complete it, better not to begin it. Then you will not be insulted by others.

#### **Annual Budget is needed**

Lk. 14:31-32 Jesus said: 'Are you able to fight with 10,000 against 20,000? If not make a compromise before the war.' Proper planning and calculations are needed for success in this life.

### **CONCLUSION**

The blessings from the Lord makes you rich and sorrows will not be added to it (Pro. 10:22). Issac prospered (Gen. 26:12), that God had blessed not the seed but the person who saw the seed. Yes, God had blessed Issac and the blessings of the Lord made him the richest of his time (Gen. 26:13). Those who trust in gold or wealth will not enter into heaven. But those who trust in God and have enough wealth will enter into heaven (Mk. 10:24).

To conclude, to get financial blessing, a healings and deliverance keep the commandments (Dt. 28:13). Trust in God and He provides (Ps. 34:10).

### **Prayer to solve Financial Problems**

Lord Jesus, come into my worldly affairs and financial situations. I offer all my financial problems, big and small, to you. Let the satanic bondages and influences on them be broken in the name of Jesus. Give me the grace to use wealth for the glory of God. Teach me to utilize the material things according to the will of God. Give me the prudence to give that belongs to God and Caesar. Teach me to handle the material prosperity that is given to me with a sense of true responsibility. Bless me to be faithful in big and small matters. Let me realize that I am only a keeper of the wealth, entrusted to me, by you. Teach me to use the wealth entrusted to me as you desire. Forgive me and my sins in the financial sphere. Forgive me all my sins of squandering, not repaying borrowed money, collecting exorbitant interest, making exorbitant profit, black marketing, hoarding, financial pride, destruction of other's property, adulteration, amassing wealth by unjust means, tax evasion, and not giving tithes and offerings. Pour out your precious blood on these areas and deliver me from all problems. Thank you Jesus, Praise you Jesus, Hallelujah. (Then pray one Divine Mercy Chaplet)

(Through this prayer, all the blocks and bondages in this area will be broken and obstacles in getting a job and repaying debts will be removed).

### **Reference Books for the Retreat and to grow in the relation-ship with God**

1. Holy Bible-preferably RSV Didache
2. Jerome Biblical Commentary
3. Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)
4. Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCCc)
5. YOUCAT
6. DOCAT
7. 27 Church Fathers
8. 35 Doctors of the Church
9. Vatican II Documents & Post Conciliar Documents
10. CIC
11. CCEO
12. Pastor Bonus - (P.E.Predicament Evangelium since June 5, 2022)
13. Breviary
14. Daily Reflections of the Bible - Diary
15. Logos Prayer Book - Healing, Deliverance and Infilling.