



EKKLESIOUL

A

THE

Domestic Praxis

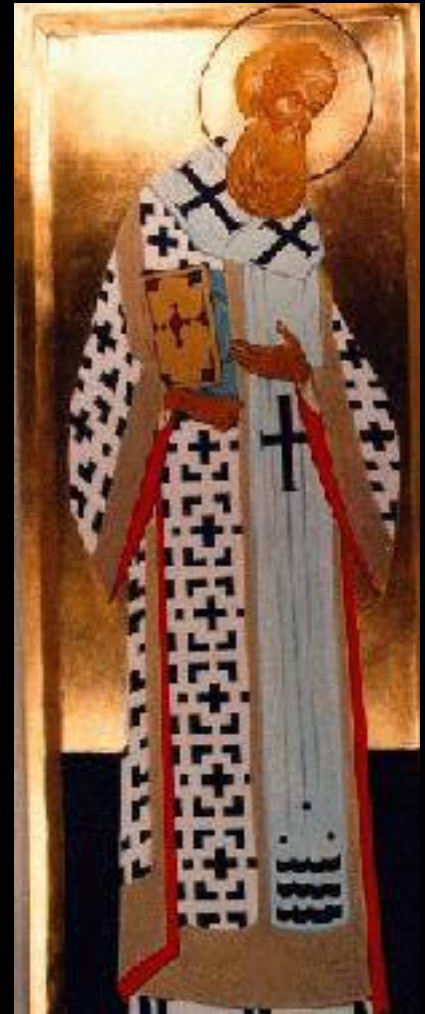
of the Liturgy after the Liturgy

“homework” from Liturgy

DOMESTIC

# THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

- St John Chrysostom:
- Marriage is the union of man and woman
- that creates the **Little Church**.
  
- St. [Clement of Alexandria](#)
- "Marriage is more than human.
- It is a 'microbasileia,'
- a miniature kingdom of God
- which is the little house of the Lord." -



# Ekklesioula

- In (Rom 15:5) his letter to the Romans, St Pauls says:
- Greetings also the church that meets in their house.
  - Churches began as Home Churches
  - Even when they have properly moved into Temple buildings
  - There is an important aspect of the spiritual / Church life
  - That must take place in the Home
- Even today the home is called in Greek "ekkesioula" (the Little Church).

# Family Church

## Children Church

- Doing Church at the family level
- Especially helping our Children to live the Christian life
- 1stly by forming/converting them to become Christians
- Takes place after & before church
  - Briefing and debriefing



# Ekklesioula to Form Christians

- St John Chrysostom:  
Marriage is to produce  
***Champions for Christ.***
- the family is the training  
ground for virtues.
- St Theophan: it is the  
parents' responsibility to  
raise their children not  
only as Christians, but as  
***HOLY Christians.***



# Formation, not just Teaching

- Not just “teaching” but formation
- "If your heart overflows with faith and love for God, you will find a thousand and two ways to pass on these feelings to your child." - [Bishop Irenaeus of Lyons](#)

# Teach by Example

- Not just "teaching, but MOST important: Example:
- "For the correct upbringing of your children: few words, much example, and more prayer are necessary." — *(Father Epiphanius Theodoropoulos, Counsels for Life)*
- Especially by the father!
- "Fathers & mothers: Go, lead your child by the hand into the Church." - St. [John Chrysostom](#)



# Not just information memorisation

- For many: religious education has become the task of the Catholic school
- But 1 of the foremost obligations (& privileges) of Christian parenting, is
- ensuring that their children are brought up in the knowledge, love, & fear of the Lord
- Parents must ensure that God reaches the hearts of their children

# Liturgical Calendar

- The events of the Christian community:
- church year feasts and seasons, sacraments and liturgy,
- justice and service, prayer and spiritual traditions, and community activities—are the core curriculum for the entire community, all ages and generations.
- Maria Harris: “The church does not have an educational program; it is an educational programme.”

# Living the Ritual of the Temple

- Is actually doing in our family of that which was given to us in the Temple
- Is taking what was given to us in the Temple and integrating it into our family lives
- Is the preparation of our ourselves & our children to fully participate in what will be going on in the Temple
- Is the debriefing after Service to fully understand

# Integration & Implementation

- The goal of the Domestic Church is begin to implement what the Liturgy in the Temple has begun in us
- Like homework, learning cannot be by lecture alone
- the information must be integrated and downloaded
- The Domestic church integrates in our lives, what the Temple Liturgies introduce and plant in us

# Ekklesioula (Domestic Church)

- It is established by the Holy Mysterion of Crowning and the Holy Mysteries of Baptism/Christmation, by which we are ordained into the Royal Priesthood of Believers.
- What is given in the Temple
- must be integrated & practiced in the Home
- so to be implemented in the World

## **Like Generations of Faith programme**

- engaging people in the event—Sunday worship, sacraments, church year feasts & seasons, justice & service projects, prayer & spiritual traditions,
- that we can be formed & transformed by their participation; and
- guiding people in reflecting on the significance & meaning of their learning empowering us to live our faith at home and in the world.

## 8 Basic Points: *Presbyteria Veronis*

- **House Blessing by by your priest**
  - Ask the priest to come at a time when all family members will be present.
  - The priest will pray and sprinkle holy water to bless each member of the family, the family altar, and each room of the house.
  - Traditionally, homes are blessed annually at or near Theophany, or
  - any time a family moves into a new home.



# Set up an Icon Corner/Family Altar

- **Set up a family altar.**
  - In addition to the family altar, which is usually in the living room or dining room,
  - you may wish to have icons in each of the bedrooms so each family member will have a private place to pray.



# Icon Corner: Daily family prayer

- These can be quite brief if the children are small.
- Many prayer books are available with various rules of prayer to choose from.
- Incense should be lit at prayer times
  - cense the entire house each morning.
  - Children love to help with this.
  - When they are small you can give them an empty censer to hold while you hold the burning one.
  - As they get older they can learn to light the charcoal and carry the burning censer.
- smell of incense is one of the strongest sensory cues that one is in a holy place.
- This experience will stay with the children throughout their lives.

# Daily Bible Reading in Family

- When you have family prayers, read the Scriptures appointed for the day
  - While the children are small, find good illustrated Bible story books to read to them.
  - Every child should be familiar with the great stories of the patriarchs, the events of the life of Christ, and the parables.
  - as they grow older, they will be able to understand the interpretations of these Scriptures given in the hymnography of the Church.

# Observe the Fasts & Feasts

- If fasting is new to you, you can ease into it gradually.
- Each fasting season, try to fast a little more strictly than you did the season before.
- (Small children are not expected to fast as strictly as adults, but they should give up something.)
- But by all means make an effort to enter into this most important aspect of the life of the Church.
- Help your children to understand why we fast and to anticipate the coming feast.
- Then when the feast comes, celebrate it by going to church and by having a special meal, perhaps with extended family or friends. If possible, take the day off from normal activities.

# Churching the Children

- When a baby is born,
  - Call the Priest to the hospital to bless mother and child
  - Call the Priest for the Rite of Naming on the 10<sup>th</sup> day after Birth
  - On/near the 40<sup>th</sup> day, bring the baby to church to be blessed and welcomed into God's house, called "churching,"
  - in other parishes it can be performed the first time the new mother brings her baby to church, whenever that might be.
  - This is a wonderful way to begin your child's life as a part of the Christian family.

# Baptismal Candles: not just for Bapt.

- **Use your children's baptismal candles.**
- When your child is baptized, you will receive a baptismal candle that you will hold during the service and bring back to church for the next three Sundays. After that, the parents take the candle home.
- On your child's Nameday or birthdays, you can take this candle out and light it, to remind the child of his spiritual birth as you celebrate his natural birth.

# Celebrate Name Days

- In addition to celebrating birthdays, celebrate your family's namedays—the day dedicated to each person's patron saint.
- This day can be celebrated with a cake and small gifts, like a birthday.
- In addition, it is good to read the life of the saint being celebrated and if possible to
- go to church and receive Holy Communion on that day.



