



**From the Desk of
Fr. Leo F. Arnone
Merry Christmas!**

On behalf of the staff of SA, FX & ASCS, I extend our prayerful best wishes for a blessed and spiritually refreshing Christmas celebration! In spite of all the craziness that has been 2020, we hope and pray that your individual and family celebrations will be a joyful expression of your FAITH in the Incarnate Son of God, a sincere expression of your HOPE in His promised rewards for a life of devotion, and an enthusiastic expression of your LOVE of God, neighbor and self! And may all these linger in your individual and communal lives throughout 2021!

SA & FX Christmas

Mass Schedule:

Thur, Dec. 24, 4:00pm at SA

Thur, Dec. 24, 7:00pm at FX

Midnight Mass at FX

Fri, Dec. 25, 9:00am at SA



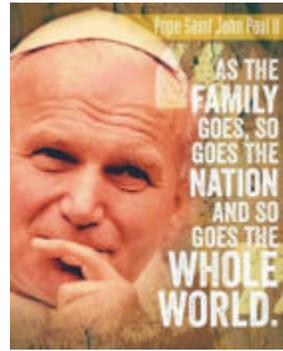
An Epiphany Blessing: Before you toss out your Christmas greeting cards, I invite you to take up a tradition from my Italian immigrant grandfather. Me and my siblings are now the third generation in America who offer an annual blessing to those who travel to and from our front doors. It's a simple blessing: just take your favorite Three



Wise Men Christmas card and tape it above your front door. As you do so, ask our Good Lord to bless with good health and safe passage all those who travel to and from your home. (Since I get lots of cards, I got all my doors covered!)

Parish Membership Implies Participation and Support: While this pandemic has caused several parishioners to choose to avoid attending Mass in our parishes, our census records show that many more have not been attending for the past two years and more. It is necessary for me, once again, 1) to try to win them back to the active and regular practice of the faith, or 2) remove them from the census so that we are not assessed for their membership.

Every family who has not actively participated in person in our parishes and has not financially supported the parishes for the past two years will receive a letter after the New Year inquiring of their current membership. If they do not respond to my letter within a reasonable time, I will remove their names from the census so that we are not assessed the \$260.00 for them.



FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO

I - FORMING A COMMUNITY OF PERSONS

Women and Society

23. Without intending to deal with all the various aspects of the vast and complex theme of the relationships between women and society [...] one cannot but observe that in the specific

area of family life a widespread social and cultural tradition has considered women's role to be exclusively that of wife and mother, without adequate access to public functions which have generally been reserved for men.

There is no doubt that the equal dignity and responsibility of men and women fully justifies women's access to public functions. On the other hand, the true advancement of women requires that clear recognition be given to the value of their maternal and family role, by comparison with all other public roles and all other professions. Furthermore, these roles and professions should be harmoniously combined, if we wish the evolution of society and culture to be truly and fully human.

This will come about more easily if [...] a renewed "theology of work" can shed light upon and study in depth the meaning of work in the Christian life and determine the fundamental bond between work and the family, and therefore the original and irreplaceable meaning of work in the home and in rearing children. Therefore the Church can and should help modern society by tirelessly insisting that the work of women in the home be recognized and respected by all in its irreplaceable value. This is of particular importance in education: for possible discrimination between the different types of work and professions is eliminated at its very root once it is clear that all people, in every area, are working with equal rights and equal responsibilities. The image of God in man and in woman will thus be seen with added luster.

While it must be recognized that women have the same right as men to perform various public functions, society must be structured in such a way that wives and mothers are not in practice compelled to work outside the home, and that their families can live and prosper in a dignified way even when they themselves devote their full time to their own family.

Furthermore, the mentality which honors women more for their work outside the home than for their work within the family must be overcome. This requires that men should truly esteem and love women with total respect for their personal dignity, and that society should create and develop conditions favoring work in the home.

With due respect to the different vocations of men and women, the Church must in her own life promote as far as possible their equality of rights and dignity: and this for the good of all, the family, the Church and society.

But clearly all of this does not mean for women a renunciation of their femininity or an imitation of the male role, but the fullness of true feminine humanity which should be expressed in their activity, whether in the family or outside of it, without disregarding the differences of customs and cultures in this sphere.