



## From the Desk of Fr. Leo F. Arnone

**Give Thanks!** In spite of all the difficulties that 2020 has produced for us individually and collectively, we still and always have cause to give

thanks to God. It is true that trials and tribulations can blind us from noticing all the blessing sent our way. And so, we must make a concerted effort – force ourselves – to acknowledge our blessings and to go out of our way – exert ourselves – to give God the praise and thanksgiving He so richly deserves from His Children. ***Our Thanksgiving Day Mass will be on Thurs, Nov. 26 at 9:00am at FX.*** Hope to see you there!

### Miraculous Medal Novena at SA:

It is not too late to join fellow parishioners and neighbors in this year's novena which began on Fri, Nov. 20 and will go to Sat, Nov. 28. We observe our novena with daily Mass at 7:00pm every evening except on Thurs, Nov. 26, which is Thanksgiving Day. This Mass will also include the Novena Prayers.



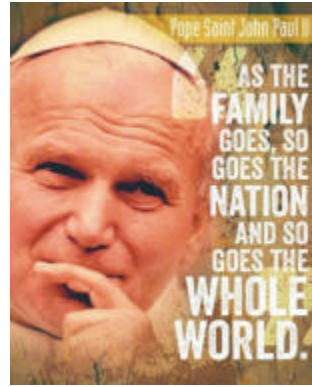
**Weekend Mass Schedule Flip-Flop:** Advent begins the weekend of Nov. 28-29, which is when we flip-flop our weekend Mass schedule. Be advised that Sat, Nov. 28 is the closing of the Miraculous Medal Novena *and* the Vigil Mass for the First Sunday of Advent – that Mass will be at 7:00pm at SA. On Sun, Nov. 29 the Mass places flip-flop: the 8:00am Mass will be at FX and the 11:00am Mass will be at SA until next year.

Beginning Mon, Nov. 30, I will resume taking my day off – there'll be no Monday morning Mass as of Nov. 30. On Sat, Dec. 5, I will no longer offer a second Saturday evening Mass.

**Weekend Mass schedule beginning Dec. 5:  
Saturdays at 4:00pm at SA  
Sundays at 8:00am at FX & 11:00am at SA.**

### Welcome ADVENT!

As you know, Advent marks the beginning of our liturgical new year. From a spiritual point of view, it is an opportunity to consider how our faith-life grew or declined since last year, and how we might improve this coming year. It's an opportunity to make a few "Spiritual Resolutions" for the new liturgical year. So, consider carefully your relationship with Christ and how you have been living out your discipleship. What might you do differently – better – to become ever more intentional in your discipleship?



## FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO

### Part. 3: THE ROLE OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

#### I - FORMING A COMMUNITY OF PERSONS

##### *The Indivisible Unity of Conjugal Communion*

19. The first communion is the one which is established and which develops between husband and wife: by virtue of the covenant of married life, the man and woman "are no longer two but one flesh" and they are called to grow continually in their communion through day-to-day fidelity to their marriage promise of total mutual self-giving.

This conjugal communion sinks its roots in the natural complementarity that exists between man and woman, and is nurtured through the personal willingness of the spouses to share their entire life-project, what they have and what they are: for this reason, such communion is the fruit and the sign of a profoundly human need. But in the Lord Christ God takes up this human need, confirms it, purifies it and elevates it, leading it to perfection through the sacrament of matrimony: the Holy Spirit who is poured out in the sacramental celebration offers Christian couples the gift of a new communion of love that is the living and real image of that unique unity which makes of the Church the indivisible Mystical Body of the Lord Jesus.

The gift of the Spirit is a commandment of life for Christian spouses and at the same time a stimulating impulse so that every day they may progress towards an ever richer union with each other on all levels-of the body, of the character, of the heart, of the intelligence and will, of the soul - revealing in this way to the Church and to the world the new communion of love, given by the grace of Christ.

Such a communion is radically contradicted by polygamy: this, in fact, directly negates the plan of God which was revealed from the beginning, because it is contrary to the equal personal dignity of men and women who in matrimony give themselves with a love that is total and therefore unique and exclusive. As the Second Vatican Council writes: "Firmly established by the Lord, the unity of marriage will radiate from the equal personal dignity of husband and wife, a dignity acknowledged by mutual and total love."

**Reflection:** In light of Pope Francis's advocating civil union laws for same-sex couples, I find it providential that this passage from Pope Saint John Paul II should appear in our weekly excerpts. Here, JPII highlights the Catholic Church's consistent - persistent - insistent teaching on married love (aka. conjugal communion), namely, that it is rooted in the natural complementarity that exists between man and woman (and cannot naturally exist in same-sex unions because of their inability to be complementary or fruitful). It is not homophobic to disagree with and resist current trends promoting same-sex civil unions! Rather, intentional disciples have a duty to promote and support the traditional family as established by Christ!

