



From the Desk of Fr. Leo F. Arnone

Happy New Year!

On behalf of the staff of SA, FX & ASCS, I extend our prayerful best wishes for a blessed, happy, healthy and spiritually prosperous New Year's celebration! With a new calendar year comes a new opportunity to set new resolutions for our wellbeing. Among all our concerns for our physical wellbeing, let's us resolve to bolster our spirit as well. If you have been away from the active practice of your Faith, resolve to make this the year you restore and strengthen your relationship with Jesus and His Church. And to make that renewed commitment to Christ everlasting, resolve to become dynamic participants in the life of the Church – not just a pew-person, but one who sings and prays out loud; join one of the liturgical ministries; join a Christian Organization; volunteer when the parishes need your help with our various efforts. Together, let's resolve to make our parishes more lively by our Intentional Discipleship with Christ and His Kingdom here in Cresson. Happy New Year Everyone!

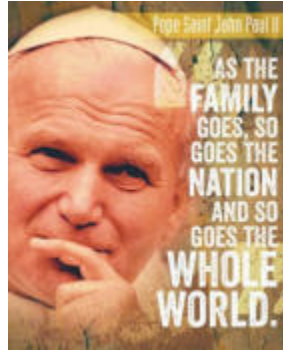
Our New Year's Mass Schedule:

Thu, Dec. 31, 4:00pm at SA

Fri, Jan. 1, 9:00am at FX



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've got all my doors covered!)



FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO

I - FORMING A COMMUNITY OF PERSONS

Men as Husbands and Fathers

25. Within the conjugal and family communion-community, the man is called upon to live his gift and role as husband and father.

In his wife he sees the fulfillment of God's intention: "It is not good that the man should be alone, I will make him a helper fit for him," and he makes his own the cry of Adam, the first husband: "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh."

Authentic conjugal love presupposes and requires that a man have a profound respect for the equal dignity of his wife: "You are not her master," writes St. Ambrose, "but her husband; she was not given to you to be your slave, but your wife.... Reciprocate her attentiveness to you and be grateful to her for her love." With his wife a man should live "a very special form of personal friendship." As for the Christian, he is called upon to develop a new attitude of love, manifesting towards his wife a charity that is both gentle and strong like that which Christ has for the Church."

Love for his wife as mother of their children and love for the children themselves are for the man the natural way of understanding and fulfilling his own fatherhood. Above all where social and cultural conditions so easily encourage a father to be less concerned with his family or at any rate less involved in the work of education, efforts must be made to restore socially the conviction that the place and task of the father in and for the family is of unique and irreplaceable importance. As experience teaches, the absence of a father causes psychological and moral imbalance and notable difficulties in family relationships, as does, in contrary circumstances, the oppressive presence of a father, especially where there still prevails the phenomenon of "machismo," or a wrong superiority of male prerogatives which humiliates women and inhibits the development of healthy family relationships.

In revealing and in reliving on earth the very fatherhood of God, a man is called upon to ensure the harmonious and united development of all the members of the family: he will perform this task by exercising generous responsibility for the life conceived under the heart of the mother, by a more solicitous commitment to education, a task he shares with his wife, by work which is never a cause of division in the family but promotes its unity and stability, and by means of the witness he gives of an adult Christian life which effectively introduces the children into the living experience of Christ and the Church.

