



Newsletter – November 2019

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Family Time

It is a common opinion among Singaporeans that we spend less time with our family members these days, be it parents and children, among siblings or with our aged parents or grandparents. Hence, there is the encouragement from the Church and the government requesting Singaporeans to take time off from their busy schedule to spend “quality time” with their loved ones. The government has even implemented some policies to cater for this need of workers in the government sector and the private sector in certain areas follows the lead.

There is no doubt that spending more time with our family members bonds the family in unity and love. Some families even pray together every day. The more time we take to know, understand, appreciate and where possible fulfill the needs of our family members, the greater will be the love and unity. Sharing our feelings, emotions, thoughts, frustrations, etc among our family members is vital to the healthy growth of the family. The private space and the trust within the family facilitate this sharing since privacy and trust plays an important part in family- related issues.

We know that as spouses, parents, children and siblings, our God has given us certain specific responsibilities within the family sphere. To what extent do we fulfill our responsibilities?

Case 1

A large of number of foreigners are working in Singapore. They came from their homes far and near. Some are singles and some are married. They have dependents waiting for their homecoming, whenever possible. However, these foreign employees are normally working on a contract basis. They can go home only on certain allocated time or when the contract ends.

Case 2

Recently I went on a holiday overseas that stretched for 6 days. Our tour guides were with us for the whole trip. Due to the size of the country, these tour guides could not go home after the end of each day. They went home after the 6 days tour.

Case 3

In Singapore, school children are spending a considerable time in school leaving little time for them at home. Homework and tuition have its share of the day. Some children like to spend more time with their friends rather than with their parents or siblings.

Reflection

See

1. What is the situation in your family? What are the causes?
2. How about your neighbours/friends?

Judge

1. What does the gospels and teachings of the Church say about family time?
2. What can we learn from the Holy Family of Nazareth?

Act

1. What can I do as a spouse, parent, brother or sister to encourage my family members to spend more time together?
2. What can I do as a CFSM member to encourage quality family time?

CFSM Announcement

Please note our CFSM Chaplain Fr. Bruno Marie Michel Jacques Saint Girons, MEP, was our chaplain for the last one year (2019). He had attended all our Exco meetings until November 2019. This year on 1st May 2019 he delivered a Labour Day Message and on 2nd November 2019 (Faith Formation Session) he was the key note speaker focusing on the topic of "Dignity" based on the first three chapters of the Book of Genesis.

He has been very supportive and engaging with CFSM movement leaders for the last one year. After working in Singapore for the last 15 years since 2004, he has been reassigned to France by his Superiors and will leave Singapore on 15th December 2019. He had served Singapore Diocese for the last 15 years in four different churches.

Thanks Fr. Bruno for your accompaniment, reflection and for journeying with CFSM as a Chaplain. We wish you well in your new assignment and success in your new undertaking back in France.