

Encounters in Ecumenism

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The Domestic Church

Theologians have described the family as the domestic church based in part on the Vatican II document *Gaudium et spes*: “Christ the Lord abundantly blessed this many-faceted love, welling up as it does from the fountain of divine love and structured as it is on the model of His union with His Church” (48).

It is in our families that we first learn about Jesus and our way to salvation. Our family is the incubator of our faith. Through the example and lessons from our parents, we learn and practice our faith on a day to day basis.

As we continue to develop, we extend these beliefs and behaviours into our community. According to this Vatican II document, “Families too will share their spiritual riches generously with other families. Thus the Christian family, which springs from marriage as a reflection of the loving covenant uniting Christ with the Church, and as a participation in that covenant, will manifest to all men Christ's living presence in the world, and the genuine nature of the Church. This the family will do by the mutual love of the spouses, by their generous fruitfulness, their solidarity and faithfulness, and by the loving way in which all members of the family assist one another”(48).



Scripture to contemplate

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

(Acts 4:32-35)

Question to ponder:

How can we involve other churches to help identify and address some of the needs in our community?

Together we Pray:

- *That we may be humble and sincere in praying and working together as a parish and together with other churches to identify and address the pastoral and practical needs in our community.*

Ecumenism in Action

Canadian Council for Christians and Jews – Annual Spring Breakfast Dialogue. May 20, 8:30-10:30, Calgary Jewish Centre, 1607 – 90th Avenue S.W., Calgary. For further details, see <http://www.cccj-ab.org/events.htm>.

Share ecumenical/interfaith activities happening in your parish. Deadline: 5th of each month.

E-mail Fr. James at ecumenism@rcdiocese-calgary.ab.ca or call 218-5521

Commission Members

Fr. Avinash Colaco – Vice-Chair, Deacon Gary Haney, Harry Ziel, Fr. James Hagel – Director, Joel Christie, Fr. John Murphy, Leslie Padula – Chair, Maureen Condon Horon, Mike Heimbecker, Rosalie Wilson.