

## THE MISSION OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

“Creating the human race in his own image, God inscribed in the humanity of man and woman the vocation of love and communion. Only a covenant between man and woman who establish a partnership of their whole lives can be called a marriage. Other interpersonal unions, which do not fulfill the above conditions, cannot be recognized, despite growing trends that represent a serious threat to the future of the family and of society itself.

“The family has the mission to become more and more what it is, that is to say a community of life and love in an effort that will find fulfillment, as will everything created and redeemed, in the kingdom of God.

“To the extent the Christian family accepts the Gospel and matures in faith, it becomes an evangelizing community. ‘The family, like the Church, ought to be a place where the Gospel radiates. In a family, which is conscious of this mission, all the members evangelize and are evangelized’ (Pope Paul VI)”

“The family is called to carry out its task of education in the Church, thus sharing in her life and mission...Even when they entrust these responsibilities to ecclesiastical institutions or to schools administered by religious personnel, their educational presence ought to continue to be constant and active.”

John Paul II: The Family In The Modern World

Four tasks for the family, therefore, are to:

- Form a community of persons
- Serve life by developing a culture of life
- Participate in the development of society
- Share in the life and mission of the Church

Guiding all actions within these four areas is love: love of God, love of his Son, and love for the Church, which is Christ’s gift to us.