

# The Domestic Church

A Journal of Catholic Family Spirituality + Vol. XI, No. 1, 2008

It is with joy that I welcome the new editor of *The Domestic Church*, our grown daughter, Erin Rapp! Watch for issues of this publication under her able guidance.

Meanwhile, Erin has asked me to update you on our immediate family. Mark and I and our growing children are journeying on with what could be called "the mission of the family", but now in the Midwest. We continue to strive to live out and witness, as opportunities present themselves, to the great Truths of our Catholic Church concerning family life: that new families are formed and blessed through the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony; that parents exercise a God-given authority and responsibility in the raising and educating of the children they are given; that family bonds of love and nature, heightened by faith in God hold the family together; that the family is the basic cell of larger society, to be served by the various social, cultural and governmental institutions that surround us; that the Ten Commandments must be upheld.

Wasn't much of this known and assumed in earlier times? Yet today we find that we must defend, on various levels, these obvious God-given Truths. As we embody, in G.K. Chesterton's words, the "brave, new family", our hope should be in God the Father, who down through the centuries has blessed and protected His faithful ones. What remains unclear to us in this life will be revealed in fullness in the next.

May God continue to bless our readers as you protect and provide, enjoy, care for and educate your loved ones! Never forget the great dignity of the vocation of marriage and family life!

*Ruth Andreas*

Associate Editor



# A Pious Perspective

A Provident Man

Fr. Pius X Harding OSB

*The last installment in a four part series on the life of St. Joseph, from an original address to seminarians. Fr. Pius X Harding is a Benedictine monk at Mount Angel Abbey in Oregon.*

"Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream [yet again, the poor man gets no rest] and [the angel] said. 'Rise, take the child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you, for Herod seeks the child to destroy Him.' And he took the child and His mother by night and departed . . . (MT 2:13-14)." Saint Joseph is a provident father. Having accepted the call to serve the infant Church in the Holy Family, it fell to Saint Joseph to provide for all their needs. Food, clothing and shelter are the first things that come to mind. But, Saint Joseph provides much more. It is through Jesus' paternal line that he receives his much cherished title "Son of David." It is a father's responsibility to give his child a name, hence a heritage and a place in human society. To be a spiritual father in the life of the Church today, one must be supremely confident of his own heritage as one who teaches, governs and sanctifies as "another Christ." Saint Joseph provided Jesus with the human face of the Father's divine love. Spiritual fatherhood, as it is handed on to us rises or falls on the human face we put to the Father's love. The People of God don't come to us for our perky personalities. They arrive on the rectory doorstep, in the confessional or at

some unexpected place, sent by the Holy Spirit to encounter in us the love the Father has poured out in His Son, the Christ, who is the teacher, shepherd and sanctifier. Saint Joseph shows us that we



mere mortals can love, provide, protect and shepherd those entrusted to our care with a love which is greater than our natural affections or proclivities. Spiritual fatherhood calls us to a committed responsibility to the Holy Family of the Church. Do we have the faith, the hope, the courage to give our hearts, our very lives, without

reservation, to Jesus and Mary? Are we willing to protect with all our power and strength that which is precious and entrusted to our care? If we hope to be true spiritual fathers, our agenda must be exclusively that of Christ. In the most astonishing act of ongoing humility, God entrusts His Son to priests. Given the scandals of our day, some are calling this foolish, but the Father trusts those whom He calls. He trusts that you will take your vocation to heart, for your calling has come to you by the same Holy Spirit Who overshadowed Mary and brought the Eternal Word into the world. It is that same Holy Spirit Who overshadowed you on the day of your ordination, entrusting into your care the Word made flesh. The people of God have a right to this Word. The responsibility lies with the spiritual father to feed his children with the good bread of the Word of God. Believers justly expect from churchmen three things: right worship, sound teaching and holy example. In the spirit of the chaste, just, obedient and provident Saint Joseph, are we willing, as true spiritual fathers, to provide this to today's Holy Family?

## Conclusion

We are so very blessed to be called to the exercise of spiritu-

al fatherhood in the Church. Even if we occasionally lose some sleep over it, as did Saint Joseph, ours is the vocation to love Jesus and Mary in a most radical fashion: in a fashion which draws others to love them, as well. Saint Joseph gave up all in order to give all to the Holy Family. The gift of the celibate life which we accept,

with all its inherent disciplines and trials, becomes in us a strong foundation on which God builds true spiritual fatherhood in the likeness of Saint Joseph. The celibate man is one whose heart is given without reservation to his Bride, holy and indefectible in Her essence. His heart pure, his body chaste and his affections

obediently set on the Divine Will, the true spiritual father is a giver and protector of life eternal. There is only one answer to the spiritual sickness sweeping through the world in these days, and that is personal holiness. We need Saint Joseph in every home, every parish and every religious institute: men who are chaste, just, obedient and provident. Each of us is simply one man like Saint Joseph, but each of us can be like Saint Joseph: totally given to Jesus and Mary - a true spiritual father caring for God's Holy Family as we journey from this present Egypt to the "holy land" of heaven. If we will live like Saint Joseph, then we will most assuredly die like Saint Joseph: with Jesus and Mary at our side.

Saint Joseph, be a spiritual father to us all. Amen.

“The celibate man is one whose heart is given without reservation to his Bride, holy and indefectible in Her essence. His heart pure, his body chaste and his affections obediently set on the Divine Will, the true spiritual father is a giver and protector of life eternal.”

## Gifts From The Magisterium

Part II Catechism of the Catholic Church  
Section Two: How is the Liturgy Celebrated  
Chapter Two: The Sacramental Celebration of the Paschal Mystery  
Article 1: Celebrating The Church's Liturgy

### Singing and music

1156 “The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art. The main reason for this pre-eminence is that, as a combination of sacred music and words, it forms a necessary or integral part of solemn liturgy.” The composition and singing of inspired psalms, often accompanied by musical instruments, were already closely linked to the liturgical celebrations of the Old Covenant. The Church continues and develops this tradition: “Address....one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.” “He who sings prays twice.”

1157 Song and music fulfill their function as signs in a manner all the more significant when they are “more closely connected...with the liturgical action,” according to three principal criteria: beauty expressive of prayer, the unanimous participation of the assembly at the designated moments, and the solemn character of the celebration. In this way they participate in the purpose of the liturgical words and actions: the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful:

*How I wept, deeply moved by your hymns, songs, and the voices that echoed through your church! What emotion I experienced in them! Those sounds flowed into my ears, distilling the truth in my heart. A feeling of devotion surged within me, and tears streamed down my face - tears that did me good. - St. Augustine, En. in Ps. 72, 1: PL 36, 914; cf. Col 3:16*

# A Woman's Place

## Art Leads One to Truth and Ultimately to God

Ana Braga-Henebry, M.A.

*Ana Braga-Henebry, M.A. and her husband Geoff, a scientist and university professor, have seven children with two already in college at Notre Dame. Ana has a Bachelors in Art and a Masters in Aesthetic Studies from the University of Texas a Dallas. She has written for Catholic Exchange and Heart & Mind on homeschool life. Ana invites readers to visit her blog at [anabragahenebryjournal.blogspot.com](http://anabragahenebryjournal.blogspot.com).*

God is the standard of all beauty. He is Beauty Himself. We are made by Him, and our destiny is happiness with Him one day. Thus, deeply embedded within our spiritual nature is a yearning, a longing, a desire for beauty-the desire for God Himself.

Religious and non-religious people alike are moved, albeit individually and differently, by beauty. What happens when one faces a work or scene of beauty? Be it a model of Greek statuary, an Impressionist painting, a Fra Angelico mural; in architecture: a well proportioned building, or even a beautiful street of old houses; in nature itself: a clear dawn just before daybreak, a crisp Fall day, a gorgeous sunset over the ocean. The human spirit, when faced with the appreciation of beauty, suffers a sense of longing. It's almost as if beauty can hurt. A deeply beautiful, moving piano sonata of Beethoven or a Chopin prelude can bring tears to one's eyes. This sense of longing is the human heart desiring God, its ultimate destiny.

The culture of death is also the culture that glorifies the Ugly, The Ugly as a rebellion against God and consequently against the human spirit itself-- a God-destined spiritual being. We are surrounded by it. Young female mod-

els with ugly clothing and bored faces, dark make-up. Pop music of dull harmony, thudding primal rhythm, and splintered dissonant melody. Ugly urban decay, ugly human action-selfishness, war, greed-all the fallout of sin. The culture of death is the culture of sin - sin, the purposeful turning away from beauty and light. A culture that hates the beautiful and shuns the revealing clarity of light also shrouds the malformed actions of abortion in the dark and isolated closet of an individual's right to sin.

Exposure to beauty ennobles the human soul. By surrounding himself with beautiful things man actively seeks and moves toward his Creator. This will eventually provoke in him a desire to search more and to discover the source of this beauty. The source of his cause of longing.

Professor John Seward's book by Ignatius Press entitled The Beauty of Holiness and the Holiness of Beauty: Art Sanctity and The Truth of Catholicism points that the Reformation was an iconoclastic reform, a quite literal smashing of sacred art and architecture, that resulted in a purging of the sacred in art from our culture and the loss of our sense of perceiving sacredness in works of art. The frontispiece to the book

bears a striking quotation by Pope Benedict XVI, then Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, that places the cultural situation succinctly into perspective:

*The only really effective apologia for Christianity comes down to two arguments, namely, the saints the Church has produced and the art which has grown in her womb. Better witness is borne to the Lord by the splendor of holiness and art which have arisen in the community of believers than by the clever excuses which apologetics has come up with to justify the dark sides which, sadly, are so frequent in the Church's human history. If the Church is to continue to transform and humanize the world, how can she dispense with beauty in her liturgies, that beauty which is so closely linked with love and with the radiance of the Resurrection? No. Christians must not be too easily satisfied. They must make their Church into a place where beauty-and hence truth-is at home. Without this the world will become the first circle of Hell.*

To close, I present my own translation of a sonnet by the Brazilian Benedictine monk, Dom Marcos Barbosa, OSB, a prolific poet and author. My master's thesis involved translating a selection of his poetry to the American audi-

ence. Dom Marcos was a loving, holy and artistic Benedictine, and our family in Brasil was most fortunate to have a lifelong friendship with him.

*casting his net.*

*Turn your voice into all the matter*

*That will translate the ideas heard in dream*

—————  
*Take your colors. On the canvas*

*Paint this iris-blue of the sky.*

*Bring to the frame a nude,  
Or the red-faced fisherman*

*Sculpt in bronze the wing's rustle,*

*The tightened muscle of the athlete,*

*The face's curve, feet floating  
In a light dance, merely touching the ground.*

*Take the instrument and arc,  
strike the keys,*

*Take the word, its color and form,*

*With its design and sound  
build the poem.*

*It's God you seek. Nothing else.*

## Holy Conversations

Interview with Donna Cori Gibson

by: Erin Rapp

*After years of working in New York as a professional singer, songwriter and studio musician, Donna has moved to the beauty of Washington State where she lives with her husband Matthew and three children. A lay Carmelite since 1999, Donna finds most of her prayer/songs from the many books she reads. Donna's music is focused on prayer and explaining the truths of the Catholic Church with Scripture.*

*Donna shares her music via Golden Arrow Catholic Music and Media, in Catholic churches and prayer groups, on TV, and is a repeat guest at many conferences and events from coast to coast. She can be heard in interview and song on Catholic radio stations across the nation and worldwide on Mother Angelica's EWTN Global Catholic Network.*

**Rapp:** Thank you for doing this interview with us! I'd like to start by asking if music and singing were part of your family life growing up.

**Gibson:** No. It was part of MY life growing up, though. My dad played Neil Diamond and Beatles records loudly, but that was it as far as family.

**Rapp:** When did you first start singing?

**Gibson:** I started singing when I was 9. By the time I was ten I got many solos in the school chorus. We even made an elementary school record. I got a lot of attention and a big head.

**Rapp:** Was your family supportive?

**Gibson:** Very. My dad wanted me to get rich and famous so he could retire (so he would always say). From ages ten to fifteen I joined the Miami Choral Society which required my parents to either drive or have me carpooled twice a week to rehearsals and lessons one half hour away. It also required tuition. After that they paid for and schlepped me to

piano and voice lessons and then let me enroll in a performing arts high school which required crazy hours and rehearsals. They never batted an eye.

**Rapp:** Do you write much of your own music?

**Gibson:** All the music. Sometimes the words. Most of the words are prayers from scripture or the saints. Yes, they need to be arranged or rhymed a little but only on a few songs did I write all the words.

**Rapp:** At what point did you realize you were being called to use your talents for God?

**Gibson:** When people started buying my music and asking for more, telling me how much it blessed them.

**Rapp:** What made you decide to sing prayer, i.e.: The Rosary, The Divine Mercy, and Holy Scripture?

**Gibson:** I wanted to stick with the theme of singing prayers because I thought it was much more practical, useful, and effective than any other kind of music. Those prayers just seemed like a "must" to have anything like a good collection. Besides, I just thought singing the rosary would make Our Lady happy.

**Rapp:** Do you feel that sung prayer is important for families as well as individuals?

**Gibson:** Singing prayers is easy and fun for children. It helps all to memorize the scriptures and possibly internalize them for meditation as well as learn how to pray. The words to the scriptures or saints' prayers or traditional prayers provide teaching opportunities and help families to "keep the faith" as well as learn it and live it together.

**Rapp:** Please tell us about your family and your ministry, and how you are able to balance those demands?

**Gibson:** Good question. I home-school, which makes having a business even harder. I've recently had to hire office help. I have three little ones. Ages are 7, 2, and 9 mos. I'm hoping things get easier as they get older. Frankly, I haven't recorded anything in two years and don't plan to for a while. I am still traveling though, giving concerts. I take the baby with me because she is still nursing, but the other two stay home with my husband and if I'm away on a week-day, I hire a sitter or a friend watches them.

I do have projects in my mind that I'm working on and when I do start recording again I'll do all the music from home - send tracks to NY to be produced - then go to the studio and sing two to three songs in one day. It's the office work that takes all the time. I do most of it at 9pm when the kids are in bed. My husband and I go out a few times a month to regroup.

**Rapp:** And finally, what words of encouragement would you give to young people, who are trying to discern their vocation in this world?

**Gibson:** Before you decide what you want to do with your life, ask yourself if it is what God wants you to do. If you are down to two choices, consider which would give God the most honor and glory or give you more opportunities to make His name known. You can also pray that God will reveal His will to you, that He can set before you a new choice. Trust Him and He will make it all work out. Only what you do for God lasts. One of my favorite scriptures is "Seek first the kingdom of God and its righteousness and all these things will be added unto you."

To learn more or order music, you can visit [www.donnacorigibson.com](http://www.donnacorigibson.com)

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## Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy

### *Sacrosanctum Concilium*

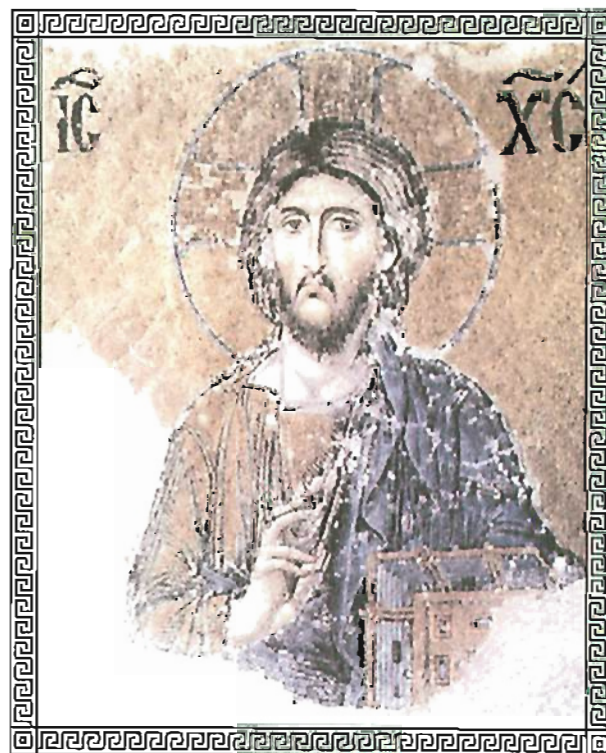
Second Vatican Council

Promulgated by His Holiness Pope Paul VI

December 4, 1963

Chapter VII, 122

Very rightly the fine arts are considered to rank among the noblest activities of man's genius, and this applies especially to religious art and to its highest achievement, which is sacred art. These arts, by their very nature, are oriented toward the infinite beauty of God which they attempt in some way to portray by the work of human hands; they achieve their purpose of redounding to God's praise and glory in proportion as they are directed the more exclusively to the single aim of turning men's minds devoutly toward God.



# Book Review

## Light of the Nations:

by Fr. Brian Mullady OP.

Publisher: New Hope Publications.  
ISBN 1-892875-39-X

*Light of the Nations, or Lumen Gentium, is one of the timeliest books written in this millennium. Fr. Mullady writes on the subject of the Catholic Church, and how she understands Herself and communicates that knowledge to the world. It covers the topics of magisterial infallibility, collegiality, duties of the Bishops, and the "Universal Call to Holiness" of the whole Body of Christ, and more. In the book, Scott Hahn offers his endorsement by saying; "Fr. Mullady offers a readable and rock-solidly reliable treatment of what is surely the most important and debated-subject in contemporary Catholic theology. His approach to the doctrine of the Church (ecclesiology) demonstrates the profound consistency and coherence of the Magisterium's teaching, as it draws from biblical and patristic sources and develops from the medieval to the modern period, culminating in Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church (Lumen Gentium). I found this book to be a breath of fresh air for its style and straightforward approach. Fr. Mullady makes this very deep subject readable and edifying."*

For more information on how to order this book go to <http://www.newhope-ky.org> or call (270) 325-3061.

## Roman Catholic Books

Partial support for this ministry has been provided by Roman Catholic Books. Founded in 1985 Roger McCaffrey and his sister Maureen Williamson have brought to the Catholic community a great number of out of print and current Catholic books, many of which cannot be found anywhere else. Most of their books are quality bound hardbacks which are made to last a lifetime and to be passed on to the next generation. We wish to thank Roger and Maureen for their support and for their vital ministry to the Catholic Church.

You can visit their web site on line at [www.booksforcatholics.com](http://www.booksforcatholics.com)  
*Roman Catholic Books,  
Reprinting Catholic Classics for  
the next Century*

by: Mark Andreas

## World's Great Catholic Literature

Publisher: Roman Catholic Books  
Edited by; George N Schuster

First published in 1942, this book deserves a prominent place on the library shelf.

The book contains the writings of some of the greatest saints and authors of the Catholic Church. From short essays, poems, biographical portraits, and short stories, Mr. Schuster takes us on a delightful trip through 2,000 years of the best of Catholic literature. Written for the lay person, *World's Great Catholic Literature* is accompanied by a study guide that can be downloaded from a PDF file to use for home schooling, discussion groups, or simply as a private reference for the individual interested in an easy to read approach to Catholic literature. For more information, go to [www.booksforcatholics.com](http://www.booksforcatholics.com) or call 1-970-490-2735. Tell them you heard about it in *The Domestic Church* and mention campaign code DJC for a 10% discount on this book!

*I put before you the one great thing to Love on earth:*

*The Blessed Sacrament.*

*There you will find romance, glory, honor, fidelity,  
and the true way of all your loves upon earth.*

*J. R. R. Tolkien*

St. Joseph's Center would like to welcome two incoming board members and officially recognize our very important volunteers.

1. Board member; Erin Rapp, Secretary and new editor of the Domestic Church.
2. Board member; Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, founder of Aurem Cordis. Deacon Harold is featured on EWTN and is a retreat master for men and family retreats.
3. New associate editor; Dr. Ann Trausch is a mother of two.
4. Retreat coordinator for Oregon; Angela Weinmuller is a mother of five children.
5. Layout and web site coordinator; Katie Fitzner. Katie has been doing layouts for the Domestic Church for eight years and is a new mother.

### How to Truly Achieve Unity in Your Marriage

Retreat Master:  
Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers

April 5th, 2008  
at Holy Rosary Catholic  
Church Portland, Oregon.

For more information, con-  
tact Angela Weinmuller,  
Retreat Coordinator  
[mrsweinmuller@hotmail.com](mailto:mrsweinmuller@hotmail.com)

#### St. Joseph's Board Members:

President: Mark Andreas  
Vice President: Frank Dulcich  
Secretary: Erin Rapp  
Treasurer: Teri Sykes  
Spiritual Director: Fr. Pius X  
Harding O.S.B.  
Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers  
Dennis Sykes, Ruth Andreas

Broom Tree Retreat Center in the Sioux Falls, *South Dakota*  
*Diocese.*

### Marriage Retreat on the theme of the Domestic Church and Theology of the Body

Retreat Master: Fr. Brian Mullady,  
Weekend of June 1st 2008  
for more info see [www.broom-tree.org](http://www.broom-tree.org)

*Mission Statement*  
Founded in January 1995, St. Joseph's Center for the Domestic Church is a  
Catholic apostolate dedicated to serving the family. Our mission is to help families  
recognize their role as the "domestic church," the Church at home, and to re-estab-  
lish the home as a sacred refuge.

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