



# Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

UNITED STATES | CANADA      APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

**June 2022**

*-For families-*

*We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.*

**Fr Joe SJ video, 1min** [here](#)

**Pope video, 1min** [thepopevideo.org](http://thepopevideo.org)

**Reflection** by Kathryn Whitaker

Kathryn Whitaker is the author of *Live Big, Love Bigger*, an award-winning book about living an intentional life. She's a sixth-generation Texan who was raised as an evangelical Protestant and then converted to Catholicism on the eve of her wedding. On social media and her blog, Kathryn shares her honest take on family life and living the Gospel, all while drinking Dr Pepper and cheering on the Texas Aggies. She has appeared in USA Today, EWTN, radio and TV stations around the country and is a frequent guest/sometimes host on The Catholic Channel on SiriusXM. Kathryn and her husband, Scott, live with their family in Austin, Texas.

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For nearly two decades, we've said, 'make good choices!' to all six of our children on a regular basis. A counselor friend of mine once noted that sometimes even good people make bad choices, but the choice doesn't take away the worth of the person. Say, even when my tweens threw a ball in the house, minutes after I asked them not to, decapitating my Mary statue! Now that those children are growing into teenagers and young adults, the spirit of unconditional love and advancing in holiness has taken on new meaning.

We sometimes equate holiness with perfection, but I'm guessing scores of heavenly saints would argue that it was their choices—sometimes good, often bad—that led them to the heart of Jesus. Well, that and the unconditional love of people who were in their corner, lifting them up when it mattered. Just ask St. Augustine and his mother, St. Monica. As a mom of six I will add that it's my shortcomings (like my willingness to ask for forgiveness) and the mercy of my children (to accept said forgiveness) that pushes us all a little closer to our eternal reward. As Pope John Paul II reminds us, "to maintain a joyful family requires much from both the parents and the children. Each member of the family has to become, in a special way, the servant of the others."

When the world feels heavy and our crosses almost unbearable, may families focus on the choice right in front of them, willing to be a servant to one another. That foundation of grace, mercy and love will surely give us the strength we need to advance in holiness, one imperfect choice at a time.

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**[Leader] Daily offering prayer:** O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day  
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world.

I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart:

the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians.

I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer,

and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month—

*JUNE: For families. We pray for Christian families around the world; may they embody  
and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives.*

**Grace:** We pray for families, that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit and be strengthened in love. May God grant us the grace to support families in their mission.

**[Reader 1] Scripture:** “The father said to the son, ‘My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’” (Luke 15:31-32)

**[Reader 2] Quote:** “In imitation of the Holy Family, we are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit: it requires being founded on the love that always regenerates relationships, opening up horizons of hope. Within the family one can experience sincere communion when it is a house of prayer, when affections are serious, profound, pure, when forgiveness prevails over discord, when the daily harshness of life is softened by mutual tenderness and serene adherence to God’s will. In this way, the family opens itself up to the joy that God gives to all those who know how to give joyfully. At the same time, it finds the spiritual energy to be open to the outside world, to others, to serving brothers and sisters, to cooperation in building an ever new and better world; capable, therefore, of becoming a bearer of positive stimuli; the family evangelizes by the example of life.” (Pope Francis, *Angelus*)

**[Leader] Reflection questions:** Think of your own family and loved ones, how have you seen God work through them, where do you struggle to see God’s grace in them? How can you support loving families, both your own family and families in your community at large? *[All: take 1 min in quiet reflection; 2 min to journal; and then share a with the group]*

**Prayer of the Month:** Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love; to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God’s plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Graciously hear our prayer.

Amen. (Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*)