



**From the Desk of
Fr. Leo F. Arnone**

Thank You!

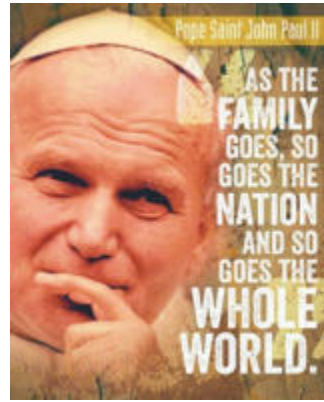
On behalf of Cresson Catholic Community, I want to express my profound gratitude, first, to Almighty God for His abiding presence and blessings in and among our community. I am particularly thankful to all those who serve on our Festival Committee providing the guidance, support and hands-on efforts in every aspect of our annual festival. A hearty thanks goes out to all our volunteers and students who put in many hours of service for the good order of our festival. Collectively, we express our gratitude to all those who patronized our 2020 Festival. I think all will agree that, in spite of the rain and covid restrictions, we had a very successful one-day event! Please accept my thanks and prayerful best wishes upon all who made this year's festival happen as smoothly as it turned out to be.

September Power House Subs: Delivery and pick-up is Wed, Sept. 23 from 10:00 to Noon at SA hall. Thanks for supporting this effort benefitting this year's festival. By popular demand, we will host an October Sub sale as well.

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults will meet every Thursday from 5:45 to 6:45pm at SA rectory. We will use Michael Pennock's This Is Our Faith: A Catholic Catechism for Adults as our weekly resource. Our first lesson is *The Existence of God*. It is not too late to join in. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic or wants to complete the Initiation Sacraments (First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation), please contact me directly via my email address (frleoarnone@gmail.com). While our primary focus is on the candidates for the Sacraments, I like to open these sessions to fully initiated Catholics who just want to refresh their Religious Education and to share their Catholic Faith journey with the group.



CCD Begins This Weekend: If you have not yet visited our web sites to print copies of the Registration Form, Waver, and Calendar, we will have extra copies on hand in the CCD Office. A \$25 fee payable to your parish of registration is required at this time. Brand new books will be entrusted to students that **MUST** be sent home and returned EVERY week. Family participation via homework assignments and projects are built into the weekly lessons. With the use of these new books, the teachers and I are very excited for this year's Religious Education and look forward to watching students and families grow in their Catholic Faith!



FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO

The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World

Part. 1: BRIGHT SPOTS AND SHADOWS FOR THE FAMILY TODAY

The Situation of the Family in the World Today

6. The situation in which the family finds itself presents positive and negative aspects: the first are a sign of the salvation of Christ operating in the world; the second, a sign of the refusal that man gives to the love of God.

On the one hand, there is a livelier awareness of personal freedom and greater attention to the quality of interpersonal relationships in marriage, to promoting the dignity of women, to responsible procreation, to the education of children. There is also an awareness of the need for the development of interfamily relationships, for reciprocal spiritual and material assistance, the rediscovery of the ecclesial mission proper to the family and its responsibility for the building of a more just society. On the other hand, signs are not lacking of a disturbing degradation of some fundamental values: a mistaken theoretical and practical concept of the independence of the spouses in relation to each other; serious misconceptions regarding the relationship of authority between parents and children; the concrete difficulties that the family itself experiences in the transmission of values; the growing number of divorces; the scourge of abortion; the ever more frequent recourse to sterilization; the appearance of a truly contraceptive mentality.

At the root of these negative phenomena there frequently lies a corruption of the idea and the experience of freedom, conceived not as a capacity for realizing the truth of God's plan for marriage and the family, but as an autonomous power of self-affirmation, often against others, for one's own selfish well-being.

Worthy of our attention also is the fact that, in the countries of the so-called Third World, families often lack both the means necessary for survival, such as food, work, housing and medicine, and the most elementary freedoms. In the richer countries, on the contrary, excessive prosperity and the consumer mentality, paradoxically joined to a certain anguish and uncertainty about the future, deprive married couples of the generosity and courage needed for raising up new human life: thus, life is often perceived not as a blessing, but as a danger from which to defend oneself.

The historical situation in which the family lives therefore appears as an interplay of light and darkness. This shows that history is not simply a fixed progression towards what is better, but rather an event of freedom, and even a struggle between freedoms that are in mutual conflict, that is, according to the well-known expression of St. Augustine, a conflict between two loves: the love of God to the point of disregarding self, and the love of self to the point of disregarding God. It follows that only an education for love rooted in faith can lead to the capacity of interpreting "the signs of the times," which are the historical expression of this twofold love.

Reflection: If we are attentive, JP II provides this education for those who read his Apostolic Exhortations.