

MAY 2018 : HOPE : FAMILY POWERED IN CHRIST

By DENNISHEW in BEC April 25, 2018

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THEME: HOPE – FAMILY POWERED IN CHRIST

Focus: Relationship

Event: Pentecost

Social Media Trend: #HEispower

Opening prayer: Invite a member to say the opening prayer and pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.

And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

And you will renew the face of the earth.

Lord,

by the light of the Holy Spirit

you have taught the hearts of your faithful.

In the same Spirit

help us to relish what is right

and always rejoice in your consolation.

Come and remain in us, O Holy Spirit

enlighten us to reflect, share and live God's Word

in our daily encounter with You, O Lord.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Introduction: Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Romans 5:5). A family powered by the Spirit of Christ will live out the love of God in and through their lives. People in the world are looking for joyful, hope-filled families. Seek His heart to know how he wants to use your family. Do not hinder the weaker ones. Be ready to encourage one another as the Lord leads your family to witness. Pray together continually. Yield your lives to His power and his purposes and be willing to do the work that you sense God is preparing for your family.

OPENING HYMN: BIND US TOGETHER LORD

Chorus: Bind us together Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken. Bind us together Lord, bind us together Lord, bind us together in love.

1. There is only one God, there is only one King. There is only one body, that is why we sing! Chorus

2: Fit for the family of God, purchased by His Precious Blood. Born with the right to be free, Jesus the victory has won. Chorus

3: We are the family of God, we are His promise divine, We are His chosen desire, we are the glorious new wine. Chorus

DIALOGUE

The Wooden Bowl – A touching story on Family, Love, Parents & Relationships

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and a four-year old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together nightly at the dinner table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating rather difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass often milk spilled on the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about grandfather," said the son. I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor. So, the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner at the dinner table. Since grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. Sometimes when the family glanced in grandfather's direction, he had a tear in his eye as he ate alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food. The four-year-old watched it all in silence. One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?" Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making the bowl for you and mama to eat." The four-year-old smiled and went back to work. The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done. That evening the husband took grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.

Buzz with the person next to you. Buzz a second time with another person

How did the 4-year-old child bring hope between his parents and his grandfather?

Based on your own experience, how does Christ strengthen relationships within your family?

DISCERNMENT

Biblical Text: 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

1. Read the text two or three times
2. Be in silence with the text – read silently on your own
3. What words or phrase caught your attention? Write it down
4. (Choose only one from #3): What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? Write it down
5. Share in small groups (3-4 persons) on #3 and #4

DEED

Read and reflect on 'Food for the Journey' :

Evangelii Gaudium No. 49 (Next page)

1. As a family, pray the rosary in your respective homes for the next 7 consecutive days.
2. As a BEC, arrange to visit & pray for the elderly & sick in their homes, a nearby nursing home, or old folks' home.

Concluding Prayer: Invite another member of the BEC to say the closing prayer.

Closing Hymn: MOTHER DEAR, O PRAY FOR US (SYPG I.7)

1. Mother dear, O pray for us!
whilst far from heav'n and thee.
We wander in a fragile bark,
o'er life's tempestuous sea.
O Virgin Mother, from thy throne,
so bright in bliss above.
Protect thy child and cheer our path,
with Thy sweet smile of love.

2. Mother dear, O pray for us!
should pleasure's siren lay.
E'er tempt thy child to wander far from Virtue's path away.
When thorns beset life's devious
way,
and darkling waters flow,
Then Mary, aid thy weeping child,
thysel a mother show.
Chorus: Mother dear, remember us, And never cease thy care,
Till in heaven eternally, Thy love and bliss we share.

Food for the Journey: (An Outward Bound Servant Church)

Church Document Evangelii Gaudium, The Joy of The Gospel, no. 49

Let us go forth, then, let us go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ. Here I repeat for the entire Church what I have often said to the priests and laity of Buenos Aires:

I prefer a Church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security.

I do not want a Church concerned with being at the centre and then ends by being caught up in a web of obsessions and procedures.

If something should rightly disturb us and trouble our consciences, it is the fact that so many of our brothers and sisters are living without the strength, light and consolation born of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith to support them, without meaning and a goal in life.

More than the fear of going astray, my hope is that we will be moved by the fear of remaining shut up within structures which gives us a false sense of security, within rules which make us harsh judges, within habits which make us feel safe, while at our door people are starving and Jesus does not tire of saying to us: "Give them something to eat" (Mk 6:37).

"Diocesan Option of 4E Catholics with

Church, as a Communion of Families" and BECS Biblical Text – Luke 4:17-21 & John 13:1-16 BECs function in dynamic ways by:

Building Relationships – We are ENCOUNTERED by Christ in our BEC family neighbourhood gatherings

Entering into Dialogue – We are ENLIGHTENED by the Word of God

Commissioning by Christ – We are EMPOWERED by what the Holy Spirit is saying to us

Serving in Solidarity – We partake in EVANGELISNG as Disciples of Christ in hope and joy