

# Love Is Our Mission

## The Family Fully Alive

### Chapter 10: Choosing Life Reading Guide

If you have not yet done so, please watch the introductory video for Chapter 10, the final one in “Love is Our Mission.” It will give you a window into the chapter and make your reading and study of the catechesis more fruitful.

It will be beneficial for you to spread your reading of the chapter over a number of sessions. Take time, like the Blessed Virgin Mary, to consider in your mind what these things might mean (Lk 1: 29) and then ponder them in your heart (Lk 2:19 & 2:51).

#### 1. Before reading

Begin your reading time with a prayer, asking for God’s help to understand what you are about to read. Here is a traditional Catholic prayer asking the Holy Spirit for assistance:

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

*V. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.*

*R. And You shall renew the face of the earth.*

*Let us pray.*

*O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

#### 2. Reading the catechesis

Rather than reading the chapter straight through, read it one section at a time. In chapter ten there are four sections, each with its own heading. The first is “Our mission for the whole of life” and it covers paragraphs 189-191.

Begin by asking yourself what the subheading probably means. Then read and reread the section from start to finish at a rate comfortable for you. While doing so, underline what you consider to be especially important statements and write questions and comments in the margins. These are great active reading techniques.

#### 3. After reading a section

After reading the section, take some time to “digest” what you have just read. One way to do this is by responding to the text.

We recommend you answer in writing, *one* of the following generic questions or *one* of the directed questions. The generic questions can be asked of any section of this book. The directed questions pertain to the section specifically.

### Generic questions

- What did you think the heading meant before you read the section? Has your understanding of it changed after reading?
- What most surprised or impacted you in this section?
- What most confused you or what did you disagree with the most in this section?
- If you were to summarize this section, what would you say it was about in one or two sentences?
- What action does this section call you to take? Does this change seem possible to you? What barriers do you think would stand in the way of you taking this action?

The following are directed questions for each section of Chapter 10. Choose one of them to answer in writing if you don't select one of the generic questions. A space is provided for you to write your response.

Our mission for the whole of life

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### Directed question

- Why is “a catechesis on the family . . . actually . . . a catechesis for all of life” (§191)?

Your response:

Living as a creative minority

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### Directed questions

- According to the catechesis, how does a Catholic live in the world as “a creative, faithful minority” (§194)?
- How have you experienced a clash between your Christian values and vocation and the culture in which you live?
- What does this statement mean to you: “the ‘love which moves the sun and all the stars’, the love which created and sustains all that is, is the same love which animates our marriages, our families, our homes, and our Church” (§196)?

Your response:

We are all missionaries

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**Directed questions**

- What is the mission of the family and why is the family's identity missionary in nature?
- What would it mean for your own family "to guard, reveal, and communicate love" (§112)?
- How do you see learning in the family the value of community having wide-ranging good ripple effects (§199)?

Your response:

The domestic church will find its fulfillment in the mission to the universal Church

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- What does it mean to you to compare the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph to your own family, whether your family of birth or of marriage (§200)?
- What are things that are said of the Church herself that can "be said analogously of the Christian family," for example, your own family (§201)?
- The catechesis speaks of "a paradigm shift that awaits full flowering in the Church" (§203). What is this shift and what do you think it would mean for your family to be a part of it?

Your response: