

# Love Is Our Mission

## The Family Fully Alive

### Chapter 6: All Love Bears Fruit Reading Guide

If you have not yet done so, please watch the introductory video for Chapter 6. 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 six there are three sections, each with its own heading. The first is "The spiritual fertility of celibacy" and it covers paragraphs 91-95.

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 6. 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.

#### The spiritual fertility of celibacy

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### Directed questions

- In what sense can the idea of fruitfulness or fertility encompass both marriage and celibacy?
- How do you see the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders both being about the salvation of others?
- What are some distinct ways that celibacy can be lived and how are they “analogous with parenting” (§93)?

Your response:

#### The rationale and possibilities of celibacy

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Directed questions:

- How would you explain this statement: “To fulfill their destiny as men and women, all persons can be fruitful, but not everyone need marry” (§96)?
- Why are marriage and celibacy the only two possible ways to order one's sexual life to the kingdom of God?

- How do both marriage and celibacy involve “offering the self to God and trusting in his plan, and building a life premised on loving others with mercy, patience, generosity, and service” (§100)?
- How can a person who wishes to marry, but for some reason cannot, be fruitful nevertheless?
- What is the wider availability persons enjoy who cannot have children?

Your response:

The spiritual and social alliance between celibacy and marriage

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**Directed questions**

- What do marriage and celibacy share in common?
- How can a young person discerning a vocation live celibacy fruitfully and happily?
- Why is a “rich social life” (§111) necessary for celibate vocations and how can such a life be fostered in the parish?

Your response: