

Christian Family Life Convention Report

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What better patroness for the Christian Family Life Committee to have, then "Mary Queen of Families". Pope John Paul II added this invocation in the litany of the Blessed Virgin, naming Mary Queen of Families on December 31, 1995.

Faith begins with the Sacrament of Baptism and faith is nourished by parents, godparents and family members. Family is where one is taught to pray and where moral and social skills are learned. The family is the basic unit of society. Because the family is a community formed in love and dedicated to the physical and spiritual growth of its members, every Christian family is a "little church" and a miniature version of the Kingdom of God.

Mary gave the example to us. She accepted her vocation to be a wife and mother in the Holy Family in Nazareth. She was obedient to the Will of God. Mary is "Mother of the Church" and the family is considered to be the "domestic church".

Many of the things done within the family seem insignificant but they show the love and concern for one another and significantly contribute to God's kingdom on earth.

Families can face many hardships and one of these difficulties can be finding, maintaining and keeping a home because of financial constraints. Homelessness for families often stems from a lack of affordable housing. This can be caused by a lack of houses or condos that are affordable to buy. There may be few places that the average family can afford to rent or the number of subsidized housing developments may be inadequate.

All three levels of government are needed to address the issue of affordable housing. Did you know that newly built homes are subject to government fees, which increase the price to either buy or rent by 25%? At the municipal level, this is an election year in most towns and cities. Make the candidates for mayor or city council in your area aware of this concern. At the provincial level, the new government is just getting their feet wet, why not bombard the minister responsible for housing with messages about affordable housing. The federal government announced a national housing strategy in their 2017 budget. Unfortunately, it will not come into effect until after the next federal election. Why wait? The need is urgent!

All levels of government must put in place measures which address the crisis. Housing policies and reforms must benefit the low and average income earners and increase the supply of affordable housing.

We ask Mary, Queen of Families to bless, guide and protect each of our families and those who are struggling in society today.