

THE FAMILY AND PEACE

Pope Benedict XVI, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Benedict XVI and official teachings
of the Roman Catholic Church

PEACE, JUSTICE AND LOVE

... In a healthy family life we experience some of the fundamental elements of peace: justice and love between brothers and sisters, the role of authority expressed by parents, loving concern for the members who are weaker because of youth, sickness or old age, mutual help in the necessities of life, readiness to accept others and, if necessary, to forgive them.

“TEACHER OF PEACE”

... The family is *the first and indispensable teacher of peace.*

“EXPERIENCE PEACE”

The family ... *enables its members in decisive ways to experience peace.*

“UNDERMINES PEACE”

... Whoever, even unknowingly, circumvents the institution of the family undermines peace in the entire community, national and international, since he weakens what is in effect *the primary agency of peace.*



OBSTACLES TO PEACE

... Everything that serves to weaken the family based on the marriage of a man and a woman, everything that directly or indirectly stands in the way of its openness to the responsible acceptance of new life, everything that obstructs its right to be primarily responsible for the education of its children, constitutes an objective obstacle on the road to peace.

FAMILY NEEDS

The family needs to have a home, employment and a just recognition of the domestic activity of parents, the possibility of schooling for children, and basic health care for all. When society and public policy are not committed to assisting the family in these areas, they deprive themselves of an essential resource in the service of peace.

“A HUMANITY AT PEACE”

... It is essential that we should all be committed to living our lives in an attitude of responsibility before God, acknowledging Him as the deepest source of our own existence and that of others. By going back to this supreme principle we are able to perceive the unconditional worth of each human being; and thus to lay the premises for building a humanity at peace.

(Source: Message for World Day of Peace, dated 12/08/07)

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