**The Family and Culture**

**What is family?**

1. **Definition from the Catechism of the Catholic Church:**

* “The family is the original cell of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ life. It is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in \_\_\_\_\_\_ and in the gift of \_\_\_\_\_\_. Authority, stability, and a life of relationships within the family constitute the foundations for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ within society. The family is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in which, from childhood, one can learn moral \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, begin to honour \_\_\_\_\_, and make good use of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Family life is an initiation into life in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”

1. **Definition from the Vanier Institute:**

* “… any combination of \_\_\_\_\_\_ or more persons who are bound together over time by ties of mutual consent, birth, and/or adoption or placement; and who, together, assume \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for variant combinations of some of the following:

**What are the stages of the family life cycle?**

1. **Beginning Families**

* The first stage of family life is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ couples without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. When a couple marries in the Catholic Church, they promise not only to be faithful to each other, but to begin their family life \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This solemn promise is known as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, made between themselves and God. As part of their covenant with God, they promise to welcome \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lovingly from God.

1. **Childbearing Families**

* The second stage of family life begins with the arrival of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The Catholic Church understands that a person is created at the moment of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. **Families with Preschool Children**

* The third stage of family life begins when the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ child in a family is 2 ½ years, through to 6 years of age.

1. **Families with School Children**

* This stage of family life begins when the oldest child starts grade \_\_ (at age 6). This stage of family life continues while the oldest child is in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ school.

1. **Families with Teenagers**

* This stage begins when the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ child becomes a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and lasts throughout the teenage years.

1. **Families as Launching Centers**

* This stage begins when the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ child leaves \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The child, now grown up, moves out to their own \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This happens when the young adult moves to attend post-secondary, or begins a new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The stage concludes when the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ child (adult) moves out.

1. **Families in the Middle Years**

* This stage covers the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nest to retirement. When the last child finally leaves home, parents have their home to themselves. They may be close to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but they are likely still very \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. **Aging Families**

* This stage of the family life cycle goes from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the death of both \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. At this stage of life, parents have likely become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and have time to enjoy their children’s children.

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