

Enhance your family prayer with  
**FAMILY ROSARY**

*Charity and Love*

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THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER



# WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Though we're called to continuously grow our faith throughout the year, Lent gives us a particular reason to take time and reflect. We encourage you to embrace this spiritual opportunity you and your family have been gifted by God.

Reflect with this eBook about what it means to be charitable and to constantly love the ones closest to you even with all the dirty dishes.

Know that we are joining you and your family in prayer. We promise to be with you, growing in faith, every step of the way. May God continue to bless you and your family.

## A LITTLE HISTORY

Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. began his ministry in 1942 with the goal of building **family unity** through daily prayer of the Rosary. Inspired by his own father who had a deep devotion to family prayer, praying the Rosary became the foundation for the life of Father Peyton (1909-92).

We at Family Rosary are ever so grateful Father Peyton's family instilled in him the importance of **family prayer**. Now it can be part of your family's tradition so you can fulfill the vision that "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together," the message created by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., so many years ago.



“ IF SOMETIMES THE FLAME OF CHARITY SEEMS TO DIE IN OUR HEARTS, IT NEVER DIES IN THE HEART OF GOD! ”  
POPE FRANCIS



## CHARITY AND LOVE



A few months ago, I walked into the kitchen after finally getting the kids in bed, and I burst into tears.

I was exhausted after a long day and the marathon that is bedtime in our house. We had had people over for dinner, and someone had kindly offered to do the dishes for me while I put the kids to bed. When I walked into the kitchen, it took me about four seconds to realize that this person's idea of "doing the dishes" was substantially different from mine.

Without going into details, I'll just say that I had expected to walk into a kitchen that was clean and ready for the work of the next day, but there were still quite a few very basic things I was going to have to do. What I had hoped that person was going to do for me was very different than what they had actually done for me. And in my weakness and my tiredness, I let it break my heart a little.

It is hard to feel thankful for something given to you that is less than you would give. Really, it becomes a choice to love in the end. Even though I now understand the person's reasoning and actions in the situation, in that moment I struggled a lot with feelings of hurt.

When I "do the dishes" for somebody, I try to do an over-and-above great job. I know what a blessing it is to relieve somebody of this grueling daily work, and I realize that it is a real help to start the next day with a clean kitchen. I am the kind of person who leaves that kitchen sparkling. As in, I wipe out your microwave and scrub off the high chair and arrange the hand soap and little statue of Mary behind your sink just-so kind of sparkling.

In marriage, parenting, and really all of the relationships in our lives, it hurts when others don't give as much as we would give. It breaks our hearts more in some situations than in others. But in all of those moments of being disappointed in what others offer us or don't offer us, we have an opportunity to imitate Christ. We can choose to respond with the kind of perfect charity that Christ shows us in John 21 when He asks Peter three times, "Do you love me?"

Each time that Jesus asks Peter "Do you love me?" in this passage, Jesus uses the Greek word **agape** for "love." Each time that Peter responds to Jesus with, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you," Peter uses the Greek word **philia** for "love."

Philia means the love between friends. Agape love, however, is something much deeper. In agape

love, you give all of yourself away.

As Dr. Peter Kreeft so beautifully puts it in his book, "Fundamentals of the Faith":

"[Agape love is when] you put yourself in your own hands and hand it over to another. And when you do this unthinkable thing, another unthinkable thing happens: you find yourself in losing yourself... You find that a new and more real self has somehow been given to you."

Jesus and Peter's differing use of agape and philia love in their exchange is significant, because it shows that Christ accepted the love Peter was able to offer him at that time—even though it was less than what He desired and what He was offering. Maybe even more important to remember: Christ loved Peter no less because Peter couldn't give Him agape love yet.

It is powerful to think about the fact that Peter ended up being crucified upside-down. Right after the "Do you love me?" passage, Jesus foretells "by what kind of death [Peter] will glorify God." And He tells Peter that, "when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands..." With his arms spread wide on the cross of his crucifixion, Peter truly and also symbolically gave everything to Christ by the end of his life.

Christ's perfect charity changed Peter. Christ seeing intentionally through Peter's weakness changed Peter. Just like Christ's love eventually got through to Peter, we can live in the hope that Christ's love in us may eventually touch the hearts of those around us.

Christ wants our all. He wants our agape love. But He loves us where we are. He takes what we offer Him with perfect charity. And that is what we are called to imitate.

Imitating that kind of love seems impossible. But practice makes perfect, right? I am starting to learn how to be glad when I have a few extra dirty dishes to do once in a while.

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## CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

We're all human. This includes the idea of being made in the image and likeness of God, our capacity for love, our need for community, the ways in which we create and communicate, and our eternal destiny. As we're called to imitate Christ's love and charity, we understand what "being human" really means.

Watch Catholic Central's episode on [Being Human](#) with your family for a deeper discussion!



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Erin Franco is a joyful Catholic wife and homeschooling mother of five. And, why yes, she does have her hands full! She has been sharing her heart on marriage, motherhood, and the life of faith since 2009 when she started "Humble Handmaid." In addition to blogging, Erin has been involved with Catholic radio and has her own podcast, "The Right Heart."

# BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER IN PRAYER

We hope the time you've spent reflecting with this material has been enriching. Remember, we're with you in prayer, every step of the way!

For additional online resources for family prayer including a Prayer Petition Page and our World at Prayer Blog, please visit our website at [www.FamilyRosary.org](http://www.FamilyRosary.org).

This e-book and all our resources represent a culmination of Father Peyton's passion for family unity through prayer. We hope our services will enhance your family's prayer life particularly remembering Father Peyton's famous words, "*The Family That Prays Together Stays Together.*"

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