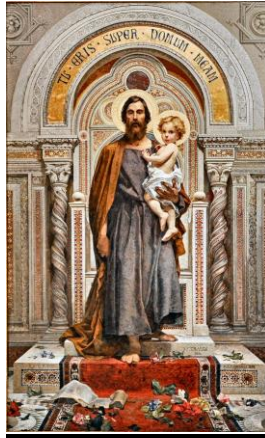


## St. Joseph Society's January Boot Camp Podcasts



### Podcast Schedule

- Episode #17 – The Domestic Church
- Episode #18 – The Scepter of Fatherhood
- Episode #19 – The Crosier of Fatherhood
- Episode #20 – The Cross of Fatherhood

### Episode #17 – The Domestic Church

I. Introduction – Are we living through the final battle between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan?

1. Sr. Lucia of Fatima – “The final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of Satan will be about marriage and family” (Radio interview with Cardinal Caffarra – the first President of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family – on February 16, 2008).
2. Marriage, Divorce and Cohabitation (Pew Research 2015)
  - a. Two-thirds of Catholics (68%) who are currently married were wed in the Catholic Church.
  - b. Roughly one-third (34%) of Catholic who have ever been married have experienced a divorce.
  - c. Cohabitation: 44% of Catholics say they have at one time lived with a romantic partner.
  - d. Among married Catholics, 11% are ineligible to receive the Eucharist because they have been remarried without an annulment. And one-in-five (20%) unmarried Catholics are ineligible to receive the sacrament because they are currently living with a romantic partner.
3. Views on Different Lifestyles for Adults (Pew Research 2015)
  - a. Seven-in-ten (70%) Catholics believe a way of life in which a husband and wife choose not to have children is acceptable and as good as any other way of life.

- b. A majority of Catholics (55%) believe that a man and woman in a romantic relationship living together is as good as any other way of life.
  - c. Almost half of all Catholics (46%) says that a same-sex couple in a romantic relationship living together is as good as any other way of life.
  - d. When it comes to various family arrangements for children, most Catholics (90%) see traditional, nature marriage for raising children is the ideal.
  - e. About half of Catholics (48%) say children being raised by parents who are living together but not married is as good as any other arrangement, and roughly four-in-ten (43%) say the same about children being raised by a gay or lesbian couple. Four-in-ten (38%) also see single parenting is just as good as any other arrangement, and three-in-ten say the same about divorced parents raising children.
4. Christian Patriarchy is the Answer – *The Three Marks of Manhood* by G.C. Dilsaver
- a. Why has this happened? – “Though many factors have facilitated the destruction of the family, the final and proximate cause is to be found in . . . the rejection of the patriarchal hierarchy of the family, in the name of emancipation and egalitarianism. . . . [the restoration Christendom] is only possible with the advent of a new Christian patriarchal order: the fatherly rule of family, community, and Church” (3).
  - b. What should we do about it? – “Today’s generation of Catholic men must begin to envision a new Christendom that is not only judged and spurred on by the accomplishments of the old, but seeks to surpass them. *This new Christendom will be based essentially on a Christ-centered patriarchy, the personal pursuit of sanctity, and the advancement of Faith and family*” (12).

## II. The Sacrament of Matrimony (Ott, 487-489)

1. Divine Origin of Marriage – “Marriage was not instituted by man, but by God. Marriage, as an arrangement of nature, is of divine origin.”
2. Sacramental Nature of Marriage – “Marriage is a true and proper Sacrament instituted by God.”
3. What are the ends or goals of Marriage?
  - a. The Primary Goal
    - i. “The essential end of Marriage is the procreation and education of offspring.”
    - ii. Genesis 1:28 – “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth!”
  - b. The Secondary Goals – “The second end is mutual help and the morally regulated satisfaction of the sexual instinct.”
    - i. Genesis 2:18 – “Let us make a suitable partner for him like unto himself.”

- ii. 1 Corinthians 7:2 – “But because of the temptation to immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband.”

### III. The Domestic Church

1. CCC 1655 – “Christ chose to be born and grow up in the bosom of the holy family of Joseph and Mary. The Church is nothing other than "the family of God." From the beginning, the core of the Church was often constituted by those who had become believers "together with all [their] household" (Acts 18:8). . . . [and] they desired that "their whole household" should also be saved (Acts 16:31; 11:14). These families who became believers were islands of Christian life in an unbelieving world.”
2. CCC 1656-1657 – “In our own time, in a world often alien and even hostile to faith, believing families are of primary importance as centers of living, radiant faith. . . . It is in the bosom of the family that parents are "by word and example . . . the first heralds of the faith with regard to their children” (LG 11) . . . The home is the first school of Christian life and "a school for human enrichment."

### IV. Application

1. The Twin Causes of Faith and Family – “A Christian patriarch serves with all his might and main the cause of Faith and family. . . . The Faith’s heart is the Most Blessed Sacrament. The family’s heart is the wife and mother. A man’s religious devotion is to be centered on the Eucharist and his familial devotion is to be centered on his wife. The love, honor, and devotion shown to these hearts reflects a man’s overall commitment and allegiance to the twin cause of Christian patriarchy” (Dilsaver, 133).
2. Monthly Challenge: **Epiphany House Blessing**
  - a. Build on your Progress: Continue to build on your progress so far and lead your family in an Epiphany House Blessing.
  - b. Read the book of Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew.

## Episode #18 – The Scepter of Fatherhood

### I. Introduction – Are Christian fathers today really King of their castles?

1. Christ as King (The Scepter) – “Christ is the Lawgiver and Judge of Mankind” (Ott, 197).
  - a. Christ is the Way – **“I am the way**, and the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).
  - b. The Apostle’s Creed – “He is seating at the right hand of God the Father Almighty from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.”
2. *In Persona Christi* – Latin for “in the person of Christ.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that “Those already consecrated by Baptism and Confirmation for the common priesthood of all the faithful can receive particular consecrations,” namely, the sacrament of Holy Orders and Matrimony (1535). Through Holy Orders, priests act *in persona Christi* in a way wholly unique to his vocation. However, Christian laymen, especially fathers, also act “in the person of Christ” as well.
3. The Christian Father as King
  - a. Through the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and matrimony, the Christian father has been appointed and equipped to lead his family spiritually. As St. Paul teaches, “the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church” (Ephesians 5:23). A scepter is a staff or baton carried by a sovereign as an emblem of authority. Men must carry the scepter of authority in their homes in order to lead their wives and children to sanctity.
  - b. “The husband should also be constantly occupied in some honest pursuit with a view to provide necessaries for the support of his family and to avoid idleness, the root of almost every vice. He is also to keep all his family in order, to correct their morals, and see that they faithfully discharge their duties” (*Catechism of the Council of Trent*, 377).

### II. The Scepter of Self-Discipline

1. Holiness equals Manhood – “A fundamental cause requires a fundamental choice: the standard of the world, the Evil One and his minions, or the standard of Christ and His Church Militant” (Dilsaver, 53).
2. “The Scepter of Self-Discipline, is the prerequisite of Christian patriarchy” (Dilsaver, 49). “Self-discipline develops a will that is both master over the mental, emotional, and physical faculties and a servant unto one’s duty, ideals, and faith” (Dilsaver, 61).
3. We Must Declare War on Temptation and Sin
  - a. Matthew 11:12 – From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and men of violence take it by force.
  - b. *The Spiritual Combat* by Lorenzo Scupoli – “Fight with great determination. Do not let the weakness of your nature be an excuse. If your strength fails you, ask more from God. He will not refuse your request. . . . [Remember for] whose honor you fight. He delights in this kind of battle and as far as possible, encourages everyone to engage in it. . . . This war is unavoidable, and you must either fight or die” (33).

### III. The Scepter of Authority

1. “Once a man has done violence unto himself by wielding the scepter of self-discipline over his price, passions, and flesh, and stands firmly in the presence of God, he is ready to wield the scepter of authority, and stand humbly in His stead and govern others” (Dilsaver, 65).
2. Husbands Love Your Wives
  - a. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . . husbands should love their wives as their own bodies” (Ephesians 5:23, 25, 28)
  - b. ]“It is the duty of the husband to treat his wife generously and honorable . . . Let wives never forget that next to God they are to love their husbands, to esteem them above all others, yielding to them in all things not inconsistent with Christian piety, a willing and ready obedience” (*Catechism of the Council of Trent*, 377-378).
  - c. G.C. Dilsaver – “A husband is to be totally devoted first and foremost to his wife and then his family: giving his all, truly his very life, for their well-being and sanctification” (72-73) . . . “The husband that degrades his wife by word or deed only degrades himself; for the status of a leader is directly dependent on the status of his followers, and it is a wife who is a husband’s essential and first follower” (Dilsaver, 70).
3. Husbands Love your Children
  - a. Ephesians 6:1-4 – “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’ (this is the first commandment with a promise), ‘that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.’ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”
  - b. “[Fathers] are, so to say, images of the immortal God. In them we behold a picture of our own existence, them God made use of to infuse into us a soul and reason, by them we were led to the sacraments, instructed in our religion, school in right conduct and holiness, and trained in civil and human knowledge” (*Catechism of the Council of Trent*, 441).

### IV. Application

1. Procreativity and Purity
  - a. Impurity is “an the antitype of manliness and fatherhood, for manliness an fatherhood are the essence of Matrimony. In fact impurity specifically dishonors and sins against manhood and the vocation of fatherhood” (Dilsaver, 63).
  - b. *The Spiritual Life* by Adolphe Tanqueray – “From the point of view of perfection, there is, next to pride, no greater obstacle to spiritual growth than the vice of impurity . . . To withstand so dangerous a passion, we need deep convictions, protection against dangerous occasions, mortification, and prayer” (875-876).
2. Monthly Challenge: **Epiphany House Blessing**

- a. Build on your Progress by leading your family in an Epiphany House Blessing.
- b. Read the book of Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew

## Episode #19 – The Crosier of Fatherhood

### I. Introduction – Can a Christian father delegate his responsibility to teach the faith to his family?

1. A crosier is a staff resembling a shepherd's crook carried by bishops and abbots as a symbol of his teaching office. God gives authority to men to be the spiritual heads of their families. As St. Paul says, “Wives, be subject to your husbands, as to the Lord,” and as the *Catechism of the Council of Trent* teaches, “Let wives never forget that next to God they are to love their husbands, to esteem them above all others, yielding to them in all things not inconsistent with Christian piety, a willing and ready obedience” (378).
2. Christ as Prophet (The Crosier) – “Christ is the Supreme Prophet promised in the Old Covenant and the absolute teacher of humanity” (Ott, 196).
  - a. Christ is the Truth – “**I am** the way, and **the truth**, and the life” (John 14:6).
  - b. Christ is the Light of the World – “I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). Hebrews 1:1 – “In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.”
3. St. Augustine of Hippo – “My fellow bishops., each and every one of you have in the home the bishop’s office to see to it that neither his wife nor his son his daughter nor even his servant fall away from the truth. For they are bought with a great price” (*Patrologia Latina*, Sermon 94, sec. 38).

### II. Lead in Word & Deed

#### 1. In Word – The Father as Master Catechist

- a. “If Christ gives authority to familial fathers, He surely gives the Church a supreme and unerring teaching authority to guide a father in patriarchal office. Hence, a father, who requires the submission of his family, must always remain himself submissive to the teachings of the Church. Only in such a union with the Church will his own authority remain intact. It is necessary then that father be knowledge in the Faith, so as to conform himself to the teaching of the Church” (Dilsaver, 86-87).
- b. Bishop Athanasius Schneider – “We live at a time of grave doctrinal confusion when the sheep are often left without shepherds. Against the dangers of doctrinal ambiguity and the loss of clarity in moral matters, the faithful are called more than ever to seek to know their faith, so they can defend it and pass it on their children” (Foreward to *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma*).
- c. Combat Manuals
  - i. *The Holy Bible*
  - ii. *The Catechism of the Council of Trent*
  - iii. *Fundamentals of Catholic Dogma* by Ludwig Ott

iv. *Handbook of Moral Theology* by Dominic Prummer

v. *The Spiritual Life: A Treatise on Ascetical and Mystical Theology* by Adolphe Tanquerey

2. In Deed – Do as I say, and as I do.

a. The Universal Call to Holiness

i. Matthew 5:48 – You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

ii. Lumen Gentium 40 – All the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity.

iii. “All Christians are commanded to love God above all things and, consequently, to tend to perfection by using the means offered them in their state of life.” (*Spiritual Theology* by Jordan Aumann, 113)

b. “The Christian patriarch’s pursuit of holiness must be of primary importance in life. It is even more important than the sanctification of his family. Indeed, it is a man’s pursuit of personal holiness that is the best assurance of his family’s holiness . . . The pursuit of sanctity does not admit of half-hearted attempts, but rather is only achieved when every fiber of one’s being is committed to the task” (Dilsaver, 98)

### III. Create Catholic Culture

1. “When the truths of the Faith are applied by the laity in their daily lives, then the Faith is “encultured” . . . A Catholic culture is one that manifests the truths, values, and beliefs of the Faith, and excludes those contrary to it” (Dilsaver, 89).
2. “The creation of Catholic culture is a lay and fatherly competency. It is the responsibility and duty of the familial patriarch to lead not only his family but the Catholic lay community as well. . . . It is the familial father who is commissioned by God to head the family, to set familial standards, and, in conjunction with other fathers, to lead and set the standard for the Catholic community” (Dilsaver, 91-92).
3. What kind of culture are producing in your neighborhood? Parish? School? Culture is the soil in which the seed of the Gospel grows (see Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23). If the soil is bad, then the seed will never take root, sprout, and produce fruit. You must lock arms with other Catholic men and create culture.

### IV. Application

1. Live with Integrity – “The Christian patriarch must live his life with complete Christian integrity both in the home and outside it. If he does not, then he undermines his ability to lead his family, and children intuitively sense the presence or lack of such integrity. Nothing so undermines the formation of children than the duplicity or hypocrisy of the former. Now, the chief former of a family is the father. Thus the Christian patriarch must guard against the compartmentalization of his life, always holding the ideals of his Faith first and foremost and closest to his heart” (Dilsaver, 106).
2. Monthly Challenge: **Epiphany House Blessing**



- a. Build on your Progress: Continue “The First 15” by praying the Morning Offering to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, praying all or some of the Rosary, genuflecting before the Lord reverently, building the habit of meeting with our Lord in adoration once a month, and starting to lead our family spiritually by leading them in an Epiphany House Blessing.
- b. Read the book of Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew

## Episode #20 – The Cross of Fatherhood

### I. Introduction – Do we have to take up our cross to follow Christ?

1. Christ as Priest (The Cross) – “The God-Man Jesus Christ is the High Priest” (Ott, 198).
  - a. Christ is the Truth – “**I am** the way, and the truth, and **the life**” (John 14:6).
  - b. The most essential function of the priest is to offer sacrifice, and sacrifice can be understood in a wide sense and a narrow sense.
    - i. Wide Sense – Every inner act of self-surrender to God and every outer manifestation of the inner sacrificial disposition by prayer, almsgiving, mortification, etc. (Romans 12:1).
    - ii. Narrow Sense – Liturgically, “one takes sacrifice to mean an external religious act, in which a gift perceptible to the senses is offered by an ordained servant of God in recognition of the absolute sovereignty and majesty of God, and, since the Fall, in atonement to God” (Ott, 200).
2. Christian Patriarchy – “For the Christian patriarch this cross, which is the very trademark of the Catholic faith, entails within it both the Scepter and the Crosier. It is the Cross that when melded with the Scepter of kingly authority makes that authority Christlike. It is the Cross what when melded with the Crosier of teaching and spiritual guidance makes that teaching authentic and that guidance prophetic. And it is the embracing of this triune staff – this melded Scepter/Crosier/Cross – that causes the Christian patriarch first and most vigorously to hold the Scepter of Christ’s kingly authority over his own unruly passions and pride; and first and most obediently to submit his intellect and will to the Crosier of Christ’s teachings and personal beckoning; and first and most penitentially to pick up the Cross of Christ and unite himself to it in his own salvific crucifixion. Embracing these three marks of manhood, brandishing this triune staff of Scepter, Crosier, and Cross, arms the Christian patriarch with the tools of his vocation, enabling him to serve his family as holy priest, courageous prophet, and loving king” (Dilsaver, 47).

### II. Suburban Secular Christianity

1. “There has never been a culture so antithetical to the Cross, and thus the Gospel, as that of Western suburbia. The suburban ethos seeks to maintain a lukewarm room temperature that is neither hot nor cold. Extremism of any sort is rejected, unless it is the compartmentalized and superficial fanaticism of sports and entertainment” (Dilsaver, 111).
2. “An authentic Christian perspective does not admit of spiritual complacency. But spiritual complacency is the distinguishing characteristic of the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Western male . . . The Western “suburban” male is addicted to entertainment, which acts as a catharsis for his inner need to live a life of drama, of battle, and dedication to a cause” (Dilsaver, 112).
3. Lukewarmness: Revelation 3:15-16 – ‘I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spew you out of my mouth.’”

4. Adolphe Tanquerey – “Lukewarmness consists in a sort of spiritual languor which saps the energies of the will, inspires one with a horror for effort and thus leads to the decline of the Christian life . . . The special danger of this state consists in the gradual weakening of the soul’s energies, a condition fraught with more danger than the commission of some isolated mortal sin” (592, 596).

### III. The Cross and Self-Denial

1. Matthew 16:24-26 – Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?”
2. The Narrow Path – “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).
3. “The patriarch, the chosen man, is called to manifest Christ in word and deed as he leads those in his charge upon the narrow path. But before he can witness to the truth, he must gain the truth, gain the vision, and gain Christ. To so gain Christ he must embrace Him in His agony on the Cross” (Dilsaver, 115).
4. How do we do this? – To defeat a man should “take up once more the practice of the virtues and the fulfillment of one’s duties of state” (Tanquerey, 1280) because “Ordinary Catholic familial life is necessarily ascetical. Which the ongoing acceptance of the deep sorrows entailed in mortal existence, the joyful acceptance of the ordinary crosses of familial existence make up the essence and bulk of all familial asceticisms” (Dilsaver, 119).

### IV. Application

1. Conquering King & Suffering Servant – “The ultimate paradigm of the Christian ruler is Christ: He who paradoxically combines both king and suffering servant” (Dilsaver, 37).
2. Examination of Conscience – Five Qualities of a Good Man
  - a. **Are you courageous?** – A Christlike man is willing to give his life to protect others and sees sacrifice as an opportunity to show his character and demonstrate love.
  - b. **Are you task-oriented?** – A Christlike man lets his actions speak for themselves.
  - c. **Are you a man of honor?** – A Christlike man is loyal to others and to his principles. He does his duty, even when it is unappreciated.
  - d. **Are you rooted in discipline and strength?** – A Christlike man takes up his cross and follows Christ daily. In humility, he also knows that God is his strength (Psalm 28:7-8).
  - e. **Are you part of a unit, a band of brothers?** – A Christlike man commits himself to a noble task greater than himself with brothers in arms. There is nothing more noble than living the Catholic life.
3. Monthly Challenge: **Epiphany House Blessing**

- a. Build on your Progress: Continue “The First 15” by praying the Morning Offering to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, praying all or some of the Rosary, genuflecting before the Lord reverently, building the habit of meeting with our Lord in adoration once a month, and starting to lead our family spiritually by leading them in an Epiphany House Blessing.
- b. Read the book of Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew