



# Social Concerns Focus

*OUR FOCUS THIS ISSUE: FAMILY AFFECTS COMMUNITY*

## **Catholic Social Teaching**

### **Call to Family, Community and Participation**

The human person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society – in economics and politics, in law and policy – directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Full human development takes place in relationship with others. The family is the first and fundamental unit of society and is a sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children.

It should be supported and strengthened, not refined or undermined. People have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well being of all – especially the poor and vulnerable.

Taken from *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

## **Call to Action Suggestions:**

- **Make an extra effort to consider where you shop and what you purchase for gifts this holiday season. Do we support others who share our Christian values in our neighborhood, marketplace and other public areas? When able, support businesses that are active in building a healthy society.**
- **As a family, create a care package for a military family.**
- **Discover the programs that St. Joseph's offers for education of children and adults.**
- **Identify one lifestyle change that your family can make to enhance your connectedness as a family.**

## **Support of family enriches the community**

Family is the central social institution, the basic cell of human society.

A healthy family provides its members with opportunities to live their faith in the daily give-and-take of related and dependent social beings. It is in the family that children

begin to learn the meaning of service, of looking beyond themselves, of reaching out to persons in need. This basic lesson practiced daily and taken on as a good habit leads family members to live as responsible, contributing members of society.

Generosity does not originate in a vacuum, it grows from experience of family members love and care and the expectation to do so likewise. The family is the primary agent of our education and formation.

Taken from *Lazarus at the Table*, by Bernard F. Evans

## **Shape the world's future by shaping family values**

by Maria Lahr

Frank and Peggy Imholte have years of history at St. Joseph Parish; parents and family members have attended St. Joseph's and they recently baptized their first grandchild. They are also the owners of Black Diamond Auctions where the focus is assisting in problem solving and decision making regarding personal, business, real estate and settling estates. These can be emotional times for families, and they work hard to honor people respectfully while helping with these important, life changing issues.

Over the years, Frank and Peggy have provided auctioneer service for many benefits – churches quilt auctions and individuals with severe health conditions – as well as support of the POW/MIA organization, boy scouts, and other organizations as they are able. Their children have also been involved in the works of service right alongside Frank and Peggy and continue to volunteer as adults.

Parents help shape the world's future by the way they shape their children's values. The first step toward helping children live rightly is for the parents to live rightly.

Our actions are often copied by those closest to us – for good or bad. Consider the two-year-old who is gaining new words and quite suddenly, to our dismay, uses a colorful one in the most inappropriate time/place. Or, a positive example: the ten-year-old who helps take



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out the garbage and the recycling; or the teenager who holds the door at the mall for a woman with a baby stroller.

It is up to each of us as a Christian family to support each other in building a community and world that reflects Jesus' love for us, especially to the poor and vulnerable.

This Advent as we prepare for Christmas and experience the wonder of Jesus' birth, let's take time to reflect on our own families. How are each of us enriching our lives and growing in our relationship with God?

**You are invited to join the Social Concerns Committee! Contact one of the following members:**

Sister Gloria Haider • Peggy Imholte • Patti Keeling • Kathy Peterson • Maria Lahr • Mike Monnens • Louis Echola