

FATHERS AND MOTHERS

A love that becomes a gift

The path of a couple towards holiness passes through the growth of reciprocal love and the love given to their children.

a generative love

The demanding, but beautiful call to be fathers and mothers leads us to collaborate with the Lord in generating life, in the flesh and in the spirit, in a dimension of freedom, generosity, creativity. It is a call that will last a lifetime and in all circumstances, which takes shape in fruitful love, even when there are no children.

Two dimensions of God's love

In the book of Exodus, the two Hebrew terms that designate the "merciful and compassionate" love of the Lord are "Hesed and Raham" (Ex 34:5-7).

The one evokes a paternal-masculine dimension, impregnated with a tender but powerful energy, operative; the other, on the other hand, refers to a maternal-feminine dimension that generates, builds, nourishes from a visceral bond. Dad and mom are the concretion of this love for their children.

be dad

Being a father is concreteness, presence, trust, authority, responsibility. It means witnessing creative courage and the desire to live. A father accompanies, confirms and protects, standing firm in faith and hope.

be a mother

Being a mother is life, joy, gift, unconditional delivery. It is knowing how to take care of someone to love, always and at all times, also accepting her ingratitude. Being a mother gives back to a society that has lost its heart, the "flavor of family".

bring heaven to earth

Every time a father and a mother accept a life and preserve it, every time they forgive each other and resume their journey, they bring Heaven to earth.

The action of the Spirit

At that moment, in fact, it is the Holy Spirit who acts in them and they, eager to accept his call to holiness, are architects of a love that reaches the point of performing gestures that only God can do: create and forgive.

We conclude with the words of Pope Francis

[...] That the father is present in the family. May he be close to his wife, to share everything, joys and sorrows, efforts and hopes. And that he is close to his children in their growth: when they play and when they are busy, when they are carefree and when they are anxious, [...] when they make a false step and when they find their way back; [...] A good father knows how to wait and knows how to forgive, from the bottom of his heart. [...]

“Being a mother is not only giving birth to a child, but it is also a life choice [...] it is the choice to give life. [...] A society without mothers would be an inhuman society, because mothers always know how to testify, even in the worst moments, tenderness, dedication, moral strength. [...].

Without mothers [...] faith would lose much of its simple and profound warmth».

POPE FRANCIS, General Audience, Paul VI Hall, 01.7.2015 - 02.4.2015