

## The Bond Of Perfection

This past year Pope Francis called a Synod on Marriage and Family. Why is it that the family is so important for our world? The structure of a family by its very nature compels us to live for more than ourselves. The innate character of a family is to love one another, to care for each other and look after the whole family. “The bond of perfection” [Colossians 3:14] is found most prominently in the family setting because here is where love is perfected in our actions, words and selfless giving. We are more likely to give ourselves and sacrifice for those of our family. This too is our call as Christians as we look to the rest of the world. We are to look upon all as the family of God.

**“Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on the love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one Body. And be thankful.” Colossians 3:12-15**

**“It is impossible to quantify the strength and depth of humanity contained in a family: mutual help, educational support, relationships developing as family members mature, the sharing of joys and difficulties.” Pope Francis**

How would the dynamic of the world in all of its daily interactions and endeavors look if we did operate as a family? This does not mean that we will be perfect or never fight. No one is perfect, no matter how much we try we will never be perfect in this life. So how can the bond of perfection be possible in this life? The bond of perfection is God loving through us, selflessly and generously, it is not our imperfect love, but God’s perfect love that is revealed in the image of the family. To look upon the world and see all people as one family, would not hunger and poverty disappear? Education and employment would be guaranteed, the basic necessities of: food, clothing, shelter and love would never be in short supply. The only problem in this world today is our failure to look upon humanity as a family.

***Holy Family,  
teach us to be kind to one another, may that every encounter with  
one another be an encounter of Christ, reaching out with mercy in  
the bond of perfection.***

***Heavenly Father,  
change our perspective as we look upon one another, not as fellow  
human beings, but as members of the same family in which You call  
us to care for one another.***

***May we put down our weapons of death; our guns, our gossip and  
that of our indifference. May we be compelled by the inspiration of  
Your love, to reach out to all in genuine sincerity and compassion.***

***May our hearts be set ablaze with a longing to love all people  
without distinction and without hesitation.***

***And may we live evermore as one family, in the unity and bond of  
perfection.***

**AMEN**

