RamTell E-Newsletter
December 2026

The Importance of Family

The month of December is family time. This is the season of the year when we look forward to celebrating Christmas and/or other religious holidays with the people we love most in the world. It's a time when family gatherings are planned, and we look forward to being reunited with family members we haven't seen in months, years, or even decades.

Family is important to us as individuals, communities, and nations. It is the most basic and fundamental unit of human society. As Pope Leo XIV said recently on his pastoral visit to Argentina:

> *"The family is the place where faith, human virtues, a culture of work, respect for the elderly, the defense of life, and fidelity to one's word are handed on. Do not give in to those who dismiss the Christian family as outdated. On the contrary, today more than ever, the family remains a pillar amid the many insecurities of our time."*

Traditionally, the family has been understood as a natural society in which husband and wife are called to give themselves in love and then to express their love in the gift of children. Today, the makeup of families can be diverse and non-traditional, but the family's function as the foundation of human society remains. It is within the family that authority, stability, and life's most important personal relationships are established, forming the foundations for freedom, security, and fraternity within society. The family is the community in which, from childhood, one can learn moral values, begin to honor God, and make good use of freedom. Family life is an initiation into life in the broader society of work, community life, and religion.

The family is the best setting for learning and applying the culture of forgiveness, peace, and reconciliation. In a healthy family, we experience some of the fundamental elements of harmony and peace, including justice and love between brothers and

sisters, the role of authority expressed by parents, loving concern for the members who are weaker because of youth, sickness, or old age, mutual help in the necessities of life, readiness to accept others, and, if necessary, to forgive them. For this reason, the family is the first and indispensable teacher of justice and peace.

The family is the original social unit through which love, religion, and morals are experienced, practiced, and taught. More complex social units are much less intimate than families and often they do not have the same commitment to religion and morality. To relegate family duties to community, city, or state organizations undermines the family's essential role as a "pillar" which supports and sustains human society.

Families are faced with many challenges today including the devaluation of marriage and family as "outdated." What Pope Leo describes as "the many insecurities of our time" includes economic, cultural, moral, and spiritual threats to the wellbeing of individuals and communities in all regions of the world. Today more than ever, the pope says, we need to strengthen marriage and family life if we want to build strong communities that can foster economic growth, harmony among peoples, and peace among nations.

As we prepare to celebrate this holiday season, let's remember that the freedoms we enjoy as individuals are safeguarded and sustained by our families. Let's thank God for one another and, above all, for our families.

Merry Christmas!

Profile: Little Way Pregnancy Resource Center

Little Way, a Louisville based pregnancy resource center, has been serving women and their families for over 40 years. Its main focus has always been on walking with women who come to Little Way with an unplanned pregnancy. Little Way offers free pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, and a nonjudgemental place to receive information on each woman's three options: abortion, adoption, and parenting.

"The way to help. To hope" is how the professional staff and dedicated volunteers at Little Way see their mission. What they care about, above all else, is helping women who are pregnant make choices that are life-giving for themselves and their families.

Every woman should feel loved and supported during her pregnancy and after she gives birth. Little Way is privileged to serve more than 2,000 clients each year. Little Way also provides free parenting education and material help with baby items, which reduces practical barriers for new or single parents. The majority of these clients, of course, are women, but a growing number of men are also participating in programs designed to help them learn how to be informed and supportive partners and parents.

Helping men learn how to be more engaged and supportive helps their partners/spouses to deal with the challenges they face in unintended pregnancies.

Executive Director Ellen Wichmann describes the work of Little Way as walking with women who are searching, providing them with much-needed information, and helping them make life-changing decisions without undue pressure from others. The result, she says, is often (but not always) a woman who has freely decided to choose life for herself and for her unborn child.

Little Way offers encouragement, support, and a realistic understanding of what a woman with an unintended

pregnancy is facing in her life. Every word spoken by the staff and volunteers at Little Way is intended to express love, hope, and human dignity. “This is a holy place,” Ellen says. “We’re here to help women—and men also—discover the truth about what they are going through so that their choices will be transformational.”

Most recently, Little Way has begun offering support groups for partners/fathers through a special program called “Embrace Legacy” that encourages men to be better fathers, more supportive partners, and raise stronger families.

The “Little Way” of St. Thérèse of Lisieux (known as “the Little Flower”) is a simple approach to the spiritual life that seeks to do ordinary things with extraordinary love. Louisville’s Little Way Pregnancy Resource Center perfectly reflects this simple, unassuming spirituality. No judgment, just encouragement, love, and help. The result? A life-changing experience of healing and hope.

For more information contact:

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