

Living Our Baptismal Priesthood

Name: _____

Instructions: Read the passage from the *Catechism* below and then identify ways Saint Macrina lived out the reality it expresses.



Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1657

“The father of the family, the mother, children, and all members of the family exercise the *priesthood of the baptized* in a privileged way ‘by the reception of the sacraments, prayer and thanksgiving, the witness of a holy life, and self-denial and active charity.’¹ Thus the home is the first school of Christian life and ‘a school for human enrichment.’² Here one learns endurance and the joy of work, fraternal love, generous—even repeated—forgiveness, and above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one’s life.”

How did Saint Macrina live out the priesthood of the baptized . . .

. . . by her “prayer and thanksgiving”?

Answers may vary.

. . . by her “witness of a holy life”?

Macrina lived like one of the servants and shared all things with them.

She showed her mother the beauty of poverty for the sake of Christ.

. . . by her “self-denial and active charity”?

She guided her brother Basil to the truth of the faith, which is a great charity. She denied her own bodily interests and worldly gains in order to live poorly.

¹ *Lumen Gentium*, 10.

² *Gaudium et Spes* 52 § 1.

Considering how Saint Macrina lived, how can you better live out these actions of the baptismal priesthood?

Answers may vary.

Who in your family most reminds you of Saint Macrina? How does this person live out the baptismal priesthood?

Answers may vary.

Living with Charity and Humility

Name: _____

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The Church honors Saint Macrina for her charity and humility and for showing her family how to practice those virtues. Her example also shows us how to live the virtues in our family lives today.

Macrina convinced her brother Saint Basil and her mother to give up their possessions. That act of charity had a twofold purpose: it helped the poor to whom the charity was given, and it helped the family to surrender their wealth that was distracting them from pursuing holiness. Once they had given away their wealth, they could focus on living simply, praying, and seeking wisdom and virtue.

Our society is often obsessed with the latest and greatest items, such as phones, cars, and expensive shoes. The time we spend using these possessions can take away from time that we should spend elsewhere: with God, with our neighbor, or on other responsibilities in life. For instance, it is much more difficult for family members to pay meaningful attention to one another when they spend their free time on the screens of phones, computers, and TVs.

What material possessions most distract you in your daily life?

Answers may vary.

In what ways do those material possessions negatively affect your family life?

Answers may vary.

Macrina is also admired for her humility. Humility means having a correct view of oneself in relation to God and others. She convinced her mother to live on the same level as the servants in the house and not act as if she were superior to them. Macrina did this because she knew that everyone, regardless of how much money he has, is equal in the eyes of God. All of us are created in God’s image and thus have equal dignity. By living on the same level as the servants even though her initial rank in society was higher, Macrina showed that that she understood the profound dignity of every human being.

Are there people you are tempted to think are beneath you? What causes you to think that?

Answers may vary.

How can you serve someone you think is beneath you to help you remember that you are all equals before God?

Answers may vary.

How can you help your family remember that everyone is of equal value in the sight of God?

Answers may vary.
