

# FAMILY FAITH

## Chapter 2: In God's Image

*God created man and woman in His own image and likeness.*

### Chapter Summary

All human persons are created in God's image and likeness, to love like God loves. God created us with a rational soul, which gives us the ability to love, to think, and to make choices. Self-giving love is offering ourselves as a gift for the good of another. Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, were created for total self-giving love in marriage. Adam and Eve were created in friendship with God. The grace and virtues they received from their friendship with God allowed them to live in harmony within themselves, with each other, and with all of creation.

### More for Parents

The family can be an image of true self-giving and Trinitarian love. Our families should be an image of the love shared by the three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity. Additionally, our families should be defined by the self-giving love Jesus exemplified on the Cross. In particular, parents are called to model this self-giving love to their children. With God's help, they must give of themselves without counting the cost to each other, to their children, and most importantly to God. By serving your spouse and your children, you are giving yourself in love to God as well.

### Virtue in the Family

The theological virtue of charity makes it possible for us to love like God loves with total self-giving love. Nowhere is it more important for parents to model this self-giving love than in their relationship with God. Prayer, fasting, and tithing are all ways that children learn to live with the virtue of charity by watching their parents.

### Modeling Charity for Your Children

- Gather as a family and pray together using these words: "God, You created us for happiness. You created us to be with You in Heaven. We ask for the grace and virtue to love You."
  - Have everyone spend a few moments in silence, thinking about what it will be like to see God face-to-face in Heaven.
  - Conclude by praying an Act of Charity such as "My God, I love You above all things with my whole heart and soul because You are all-good and worthy of all my love."
- As parents, establish your own "rule of life" for prayer. Spend fifteen minutes a day in silent prayer, meditating on a Scripture passage, writing of a saint, attribute of God, etc. This will demonstrate a daily commitment to prayer.
- Take a walk as a family and teach your children that all of creation is a beautiful gift that shows God's love for us. When we live with charity, God makes us beautiful gifts to others.

### Vocabulary Words for Your Children to Review

- **charity**
- **human person**
- **image of God**
- **love**
- **self-giving love**
- **soul**

Find digital flash cards to help your children review on the parent portal.



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