

## **St. Dominic's Chapel**

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**>From Blue Paper Year 6 # 280**

### **“St. Ann’s Family and Nazareth”**

Was Saint Ann a Feminist?

In modern society there have been changes in customs and social arrangements, which partially reflect in the life of the Church through a necessary changes. However, when it comes to Feminism, we are dealing with attempts to weaken the principle of dependence – a link, both by nature and revelation, which comes to us from our Creator to creatures.

Creatures depend from God. Man’s dependence on his own nature is ultimately a dependence on God. As result of this dependency, man takes it to himself in act of moral obedience.

Thus, the fundamental mistake of modern Feminism is that, by misunderstanding the natural particularities of the female side of human creature, it has taken upon itself to claim for women not those things that belong to all human nature as such, but things that only belong to all human nature when it is considered with the natural particularities of the MALE.

Feminism concludes itself into an imitation of the masculine, entailing a consequent loss of those characteristics that human nature possesses in virtue of the duality of the sexes, which are not contradictories but complementary of each other.

Needless to say that the modern society we live in has loss the masculinity of the manhood and the feminine of the womanhood. It is not only in regards of the same-sex emotional flaws but also in the concept of identity: who am I? And what I suppose to do?

In other words, Feminism redounds not to the exaltation of women, but to the obliteration of the feminine and is total reduction to the masculine! In practical application, this attitude is the negation of proper Marriage and Family. It is negation of the canonized distinction of male and female, by the commandment of *“Increase and multiply.”* That’s why such commitment is named after pro-creation.

Besides, the moral equality of the sexes does not remove the natural particularities of women, or abolish the maintenance of the inner life of the family as their primary task, or take away their role as doers of things that cannot be transferred to the other sex. Absolutely, the loss of the right vocabulary to express ideas, doctrinal confusion, historical inexactitude and the general desire to agree with the spirit of the modern world, and/or with the New Evangelization of Pope Francis, have produced, even more, an impulse of Feminism downward and upward in today’s partnership versus true family.

In fact, Feminism is a form of “masculinism,” so to say, because when talking about emancipating women from men, it does not mean to make men respect women by binding men to faithfulness and conjugal chastity, but rather it means to turn women into libertines as men – moved by animal passions rather than reason and will. The belief that the Christian religion has suppressed and maltreated women has become a commonplace of the innovator’s propaganda or non-Catholic agenda.

As a matter of fact, to evaluate the ruin of morality in the Family, one should consider those certain kinds of behavior that recur in daily life and in the public life of human activity. Concerning morals, it is very important to observe how such behavior is understood, namely, how the public conscience judges it, thinks about it, and talks about it.

Can we challenge that IMMODESTY in public life is not more widespread throughout the world than before 2000’s, affecting families?

When moral excesses family members and school guidance, when it is beyond social decency and Church respect, are we recognize that there are serious problems against the virtue of Modesty?

Modesty was a general characteristic of the Christian Civilization to the extent of Music and songs, to the extent of words and expressions, to the extent of dressing and thinking, to the extent of marital life and single life.

In the other hand, Immodesty IS the general characteristic of our own time; surely, one needs only to check out books and novels, to walk on the streets and airports, to click on the I-pad and/or I-phone, and so forth... So, intimacy has lost its shinning veil of modesty, and is divulged, displayed and bruted about in movies and pictures as far of an instant click, like Instagram. Thence, there follows a progressive decline in obscenity and

cynic life in public domain, as ultimate demonstration of contemporary sensual indulgence, until by man-made laws approves as “legal” such shameful actions against the Law of God.

We should examine the modern phenomenon of Modesty and Immodesty, to show consequences of our declining in morals springing from a denial of nature or essences, which leads into a denial of the Original sin. Then, if there is no Original Sin, why Mankind needed a Redeemer?

*“Thinking sins -Dante said (Paradiso XXVII,32)- of the flesh the worst sort was an exaggeration, indeed a grave error, but was not a mistake that well-instructed people made.”* Even though it is not equal to sin, concupiscence is the most obvious symptom of man’s present state, and his inherent tendency to sin, after Original Sin. Our will is not bound to concupiscence (as Luther thought), but it is bound to struggle against it, and when it wins a victory it is always a victory for the time being because the struggle is always there.

So, the modern ideas, which dismiss Modesty, take away the element of struggle in order to celebrate self-indulgence as total victory, without remorse. Since conscience is the greater barrier because it reasserts itself imperiously whenever is violated, emancipation from any conscientious obligation to Modesty becomes synonymous with happiness. In the practical level, it entails the abolition of marriage (as naturally procreative). It becomes “public right” to express intimate contact, imposes unnatural union, indiscriminate conjugal relations between spouses, and promotes unclothing fashions.

The driving force element of Immodesty is the lacking of the Fear of God. If there is no fear of offending Almighty God, there is no way to stop the declining immorality on the world. Absolutely, underlying this eroticism is a spurious notion of freedom or liberty, to do or to think whatever one feels like.

In addition, many people condemn Immodesty not because it is mortally (sinfully) wrong, but simply because it upsets the mechanics of life and is an impediment to a person’s development – its usually connect with drinking problems or drug addiction, or both of them into a gothic attitude. If we left such vices out of reality, there is no connection made with Original Sin, then man’s divorce from the moral law is not considered, even the terms of Chastity and Modesty are not used, and Virginity is not an option!

Therefore, the Catholic Family is the foundation and hope of society, of Nations, and Church. Families should apply themselves to the work of formation and preparation. Parents should devote themselves to install the principles of the Gospel at home: Poverty, Obedience and Chastity. The more materialistic is a family, the more struggles are wrestling between Modesty and Immodesty. The more comfort zoning is at home in morals and faith, the more obedience to the man-made laws appears in rejection of God’s Law. The more man materialistic reason rules at work and immodest dressing and thinking is allowed at home, the more immorality is visually obscene and is cynically justified.

When Catholic Family-life is being attacked on every side, it is well for us Catholics to keep before our minds model examples of family-life set up by God for our guidance and imitation. This is the case of the Marriage between Saint Joachim and Saint Ann. She was not a Feminist at all. She kept her role as wife throughout her life, enduring the difficulties of having no children but trusting in Divine Providence. Her obedience was based in God’s Commandments. Her spirit of poverty became a core of family-life, without complains nor greedy at all. Her Modesty, not only in dressing exteriorly but also interiorly was regulated by a humble attitude supported by Faith in her duties of state, as married woman.

Let’s avoid the disorder of modern society resulting in passions of lust, being played upon numberless families. It is the material element in us, the source of division and separation that dominates. The consequences are inevitable: selfishness is the driving force in today’s Man-centered world.

For Christian families nothing more exemplary or beneficial can be conceived than the Holy Family of Nazareth, which is the embodiment of all the domestic virtues in its higher perfection including Modesty, which is an exterior manifestation in the way of daily dressing, and which is an interior exhortation in the way of thinking and believing.

Viva Cristo Rey!

Father Zendejas