

“All I really needed to know I learned in the Kindergarten.” This is the title of a book written by Robert Fulghum more than 35 years ago. It got me to thinking that all I ever really needed to know about faith I learned in my family, especially from my mother, despite my 18 years in Catholic schools.

The Vatican Council and many Popes, including Pope Francis have called the family the domestic Church. Both families and church are communities of love where the most important lessons of life are learned, where faith is learned and practiced. So often my mother would say to us, “God will provide” and so much else. Both families and the Church are called to be communities of love and of faith.

Have you noticed that something very significant has happened to our American culture in recent years. God has dropped out. God is less and less noticed. God is not mentioned. Our belief that God is the very center of life is disregarded.

At the same time our American culture is coming unraveled. As a result, fewer young women and men are becoming sisters and brothers and Catholic priests. Our Catholic schools are closing, and Catholic parishes are merging and closing. Young people are staying away from Mass and the Sacraments. And yet we still have the family. It has always been the belief of the Church that mothers and fathers are the first teachers and best teachers of their children in the ways of the faith. It is in the home, in and through the family that faith is best shared and handed down. Grandparents, older sisters and brothers are also so important in the life of the family, in teaching younger children to love one another and to pray.

Above all there must be love in the family. Without love families breakdown and children suffer. If you don't feel we are doing enough to help you, please let us know.

Listen once again to the words of the Gospel, “Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them... Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.”