

**WHAT ARE THE DUTIES THAT SOCIETY HAS TOWARDS THE FAMILY?**

Society, while respecting the principle of subsidiarity, has the duty to support and strengthen marriage and the family. Public authority must respect, protect and foster the true nature of marriage and the family, public morality, the rights of parents, and domestic prosperity.

**WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF CHILDREN TOWARDS THEIR PARENTS?**

Children owe respect, gratitude, docility and obedience to their parents. In paying them respect and in fostering good relationship with their brothers and sisters, children

contribute to the growth in harmony and holiness in family life in general. Adult children should give their parents material and moral support whenever they find themselves in situation of distress, sickness, loneliness or old age.

**WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF PARENTS TOWARDS THEIR CHILDREN?**

Parents, in virtue of their participation in the fatherhood of God, have the first responsibility for the education of their children and they are the first heralds of the faith for them. They have the duty to love and respect their children as persons and as children of God and to provide, as far as is possible, for their physical and spiritual needs. They should select for them a suitable school and help them with prudent counsel in the choice of their profession and their state of life. In particular they have the mission of educating their children in the Christian faith.

**HOW ARE PARENTS TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH?**

Parents do this mainly by example, prayer, family catechesis and participation in the life of the Church.

**ARE FAMILY BONDS AN ABSOLUTE GOOD?**

Family ties are important but not absolute, because the first vocation of a Christian is to follow Jesus and to love him: “he who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me” (Matthew 10:37). Parents must support with joy their children’s choice to follow Jesus in whatever state of life, even in the consecrated life or the priestly ministry.

## **HOW SHOULD AUTHORITY BE EXERCISED IN THE VARIOUS SPHERES OF CIVIL SOCIETY?**

Authority should always be exercised as a service, respecting fundamental human rights, a just hierarchy of values, laws, distributive justice, and the principle of subsidiarity. All those who exercise authority should seek the interests of the community before their own interest and allow their decisions to be inspired by the truth about God, about man and about the world.

## **WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF CITIZENS IN REGARD TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES?**

Those subject to authority should regard those in authority as representatives of God and offer their loyal collaboration for the right functioning of public and social life. This collaboration includes love and service of one's homeland, the right and duty to vote, payment of taxes, the defence of one's country, and the right to exercise constructive criticism.



## **WHEN IS A CITIZEN FORBIDDEN TO OBEY CIVIL AUTHORITIES?**

A citizen is obliged in conscience not to obey the laws of civil authorities when they are contrary to the demands of the moral order: “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts of the Apostles 5:29).

*It is essential that every Catholic has access to good Catechesis to be able to deepen their faith. The Diocese of Plymouth recommends the many Catechetical Workshops from 'Franciscan at Home,' for more information on access to these and online or real group sessions contact [deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk](mailto:deborah.vankroonenburg@prcdtr.org.uk)*