

Msgr. Bill's Weekly Letter...

Brothers and Sisters,

This week we celebrate Word of God Sunday. I found this article from the USCCB publication dealing with the importance of the Bible in our homes.

On the popular public television program Antiques Roadshow, people from around the country bring their treasures to be appraised by various experts. An antique might be a cherished family heirloom displayed proudly in a prominent place in the home, or a long-forgotten trinket gathering dust on a shelf in the attic. Whatever the item, the owner is usually surprised to hear the expert's comments. The appraiser might put a low-price tag on something the owner thought had great value. On the other hand, what was originally purchased for a few dollars sometimes turns out to be a prized collector's item now valued at thousands of dollars.

Take a look around your home. What is your family's most valued possession? Is it an object, a person, a relationship? How does your family express delight and pride in this treasured possession?

The Second Vatican Council teaches that "the treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly so that a richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's Word" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy [Sacrosanctum Concilium], no. 51, in Vatican Council II: Volume 1: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents, new rev. ed., ed. Austin Flannery [Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 1996]). Do we consider the Bible a treasure,



a special table around which the family gathers? Is the family Bible among your home's most valuable possessions? As we consider practical ways to share the Word of God at home, perhaps we will be surprised to discover that the family Bible, regardless of whether it is prominently displayed or is gathering dust on an attic shelf, is one of the most valuable spiritual treasures in a Christian home.

Feeding Your Family Food for the Soul -- Recent surveys have shown that few Catholics read the Bible on their own or as a family. But what better place is there to encounter the person of Jesus Christ than in God's Word? As St. Jerome once noted, "Ignorance of Scripture is

ignorance of Christ." The Church continually invites us to return to God's Word. For when we pray with the Bible—personally and in our homes—our encounter with the living Word of God is not a mere intellectual exercise but a spiritually nourishing feast. As we find ways to share God's Word in our homes, we will experience firsthand what the Second Vatican Council means in Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum) when it states that "in the sacred books the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them. And such is the force and power of the Word of God that it can serve the Church as her support and vigor, and the children of the Church as strength for their faith, food for their soul, and a pure and lasting fount of spiritual life.

Let us, all of us, become more acquainted with God's Word.

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Msgr. Bill