**THEO 140-CS31**

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**Title:** Basic and Inalienable rights of the Family

**Basic and Inalienable rights of the family**

Refers to fundamental and inherent entitlements that are universally recognized and cannot be taken away.

**Fundamental Principles**

A.) The Right to Subsistence and Life

B.)  The Right to Fulfill its Mission

C.) The Right to Adequate Financial Support

D.) The Right to Protection and Assistance

**•The Right to Subsistence and Life**

The family is entitled to its own subsistence and life. This implies that the state has the duty to help the family attain the basic resources it needs to carry out its proper tasks. Besides material help, the family needs a non hostile moral environment.

**•The Right to Fulfil its Mission**

(1) Procreation

Every family has the primary and inviolable right of procreating new lives.

Every human being—and also the child in his mother’s womb—has a right to life, which comes directly from God, not from his parents, nor from any sort of human society or authority.

It is the parents, and not the public authorities, who are responsible for the transmission of life and the education of children.

(2) The education of children

The upbringing of children is the natural continuation of procreation, since children need material and spiritual care until they reach maturity. Parents are the first and main educators of their children.

This mission must be recognized, and parents must receive the necessary assistance. It follows that parents have the primary right to choose the type of education that is imparted in schools. Since parents have conferred life on their children, they have a most solemn obligation to educate their offspring.

**•The Right to Adequate Financial Support**

Large families should receive a proportionate retribution, so that the weaker members—or even the breadwinners—are not overworked in order to support the family.

Every effort must therefore be made [so] that fathers of families receive a wage large enough to meet ordinary family needs adequately.

**•The Right to Protection and Assistance**

This property is acquired by economizing and saving. The state must thus adopt policies that foster family initiative.

It is a most sacred law of nature that a father should provide food and all necessaries for those whom he has begotten; and should be provided by him with all that is needful to enable them to keep themselves decently from want and misery amid the uncertainties of this mortal life.

**The duties of the political community toward the family :**

• To assure individuals of the freedom to found a home, have children, and educate them according to their own religious and morals convictions

• To protect the stability of the conjugal bond and the family institution

• To assure freedom to profess one’s faith, transmit it, and educate the children in it with the necessary means and institutions

• To recognize the rights to private property, freedom of initiative, work, housing, and emigration

• To assure the right to medical care, assistance for the aged, and family subsidies, according to the laws of the country

• To protect public security and hygiene, especially regarding the dangers of drugs,

pornography, and alcohol abuse

• To recognize the family’s right to form associations together with other families and to be thus represented before the civil authorities24

References:

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