**The development of the being starts in the family. Contemporary ideologies however, more often than not deform such platform for growth and make it seem hostile. The husband and wife must then regularly participate in the Eucharistic sacrifice as Christ's covenant love with the Church in the sacrament of marriage. Prayer offered together with the children strengthens the family as the first school of integrity, justice, peace, and love.**

*“The development of the being starts in the family.”*

* This has been repeatedly mentioned in the previous articles.
* We all know that the family is most basic social institution and a lot of what makes up our being comes from the family.
* The role of the family then is very important as it majorly constitutes to the development of the children positively or negatively.
* But then, it was mentioned in the reading that one of the grave concerns today is the purification and moral renewal of the family itself.
* The family which is the source of development and nourishment has also been the birthplace of several complications in society today.

*“Contemporary ideologies however, more often than not deform such platform for growth and make it seem hostile.”*

* The CBCP article suggests that the shift of the family dynamic to an inward sense made the origin of many cultural distortions that lie at the root our problems as a people.
* This is according to the National Pastoral Consultation on Church Renewal of January 2001
* We all know that parental behavior is passed on as an example to children.
* Most of the values we long and care for are instilled in us by our parents such as saying “po” and “opo,” respecting the elderly, and caring for the greater good.
* But while the family structure breeds into us some good values, it is more often that bad and misconstrued values are the one being exposed to us.
* Sad to say, due to the contemporary culture we have that values sinful acts, the degradation of moral values through crime and vice is what is most visible to children as they observe their parents, watch movies, television, or listen to political issues and crimes plaguing the country.
* The consumerist culture and the materialistic mindset among Filipino families have prevailed and has become a standard in the past decade or so.
* In the context of the Filipino family for example, we see the distorted values for instance, while we appreciate our strong familial ties, we also need to correct the closed family mentality or the idea that we are obliged to help the people whom we are related to and sacrifice the common good.
* This idea becomes the model of graft and corruption.
* It can mostly be seen in politics, with the strong occurrence of political dynasties whose members run several positions in the different sectors of the government.
* These political officials tend to think more of enriching their families rather than promoting the good of all which is growing together even if you are among the poor.
* The same goes in job hiring processes, where family members or close friends are accepted easily and does not have to go through the process of application.
* And, this is in contrast to what the notion of the family as the first school of integrity, justice, of peace, and of love.

*“The husband and wife must then regularly participate in the Eucharistic sacrifice as Christ's covenant love with the Church in the sacrament of marriage.”*

* As a solution, the article suggests that the husband and wife must regularly participate in prayer and live a life of faith in God.
* According to the text, the husband and wife must take on a Eucharistic sacrifice as Christ’s covenant love with the Church in the sacrament of marriage.
* What is this sacrifice exactly? This spiritual sacrifice that the text refers is a transformation that is provided by the grace of the sacrament of marriage. It is the call for a mutual sanctification.
* An example cited in the text was spouses Maria and Luigi whose family extended various efforts in supporting the church.
* They are an ordinary family that lived in an extraordinary manner. An example that one can live a rich spiritual life despite the surrounding anxieties and problems of the reality they are facing.’
* With their case, it can be seen that the sacrifice the text labels is in the contrary as it provides nourishment, strength, and support for in the Eucharistic sacrifice.
* In a sense it is not actually a sacrifice but a much more commitment to resist wrestling influences and to commit to something that is far more rewarding.
* And it is in this sacrifice that couples encounter the source from which their covenant flows.

*“Prayer offered together with the children strengthens the family as the first school of integrity, justice, peace, and love.”*

* And in order for the gift of marriage to trickle down and carry on the good news, families must have prayers offered together with the children in order strengthen the family as the initial source of integrity, justice, peace, and love.
* The commitment to taking prayer integrates the family and ultimately achieve spiritual growth between them. It is an effort to keep ourselves in check and be in touch with our spirituality.
* Much like a family meal, family prayer stimulates love in the family and obtains grace which is necessary for that love to grow.
* And this why prayers are important and must be encouraged in their way of living.
* In the Philippine context however, it is unfortunate that the notion of family prayer has always been taken for granted.
* Parents do not take an active role in leading and strengthening the family with the fundamental area of prayer.
* Prayer in the country is seen a luxury and that is far from what it is supposed to be which is a necessity and that it is indispensable.
* Most OFWs and poor families are often seen with this.
* Fathers often do not set an example in leading the family prayer which is very important.
* Parents do not initiate on attending mass anymore and they no longer stress the importance of it.
* And family’s prayer is really important as this is the example set by Jesus Christ as he prays to his father.
* Because fathers must likewise pray for and with their families.
* Through the family prayer, God makes the family a sanctified and sanctifying family.
* It is through the prayer that we get a sense of continuity, where we get to reconcile with ourselves and our Lord and this is crucial because one solution cannot solve all problems.
* It is through a lifetime of actions that we can solve a lifetime of problems.
* And we achieve the consistency to do so by getting in touch through prayer.