

## Families Living the Gospel

### A Summer of Service...at home!

In a letter to Cardinal Kevin Farrell, prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, which is helping plan the World Meeting of Families in Dublin, Aug. 21-26, 2018, Pope Francis says, "I wish to underline how important it is for families to ask themselves often if they live based on love, for love and in love. In practice, this means giving oneself, forgiving, not losing patience, anticipating the other, respecting. How much better family life would be if every day we lived according to the words, 'please', 'thank you' and 'I'm sorry'."

This summer, challenge yourself to provide service in-house, to your own family and friends. Do something nice for a family member. Give a complement. Bite your tongue when you want to say something mean. Pray for the family member you have a disagreement with. Help your child to surprise a sibling by completing their chore one day. Offer to cook dinner or wash the car. Leave sidewalk chalk pictures and messages on the driveways and walkways of neighbors as a random act of kindness. Read to a younger child or play with them without complaining. Share what you grow in your garden. Interview a grandparent or elderly family member, type up what they say and share it electronically with extended family. Plant flowers, pull weeds or mow the lawn as a surprise. Offer to help before you are asked. Write a thank you note to each of your family members. Bring a cup of coffee. Fold their laundry.

The list could go on and on...

-Katie Neu, Director of Family Faith Formation