

# Splendor In the Ordinary

## Action Questions to Consider

### THE HOUSEHOLD

- Do you find it difficult to think of your home, and the rooms in it, as hallowed/sacred?
- If you consider your home as a hallowed place, does that begin to change the way you think of your ordinary duties?
- Are there one or more ordinary duties that you find especially challenging to view in this light?
- Consider your home:
  - Is it cluttered? What areas are particular clutter pain points:  
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  - Are the objects within a room serving the purpose of that room?
  - Is the natural light in a room obstructed?
  - Quick tidy drill: can you tidy living spaces (family room, kitchen, dining area) in 15-20 minutes?
  - Do the children have a role in tidying and decluttering?
  - Is there order in the home so that everyone knows where to put an object away?
  - Have you considered the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent as particularly good times to declutter in order to give items away to bless another home?
- Do you find organization of material blessings a challenge? If so, why?
  - Are there any organizational pain points in your home?  
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- Does your current level of activity drown out your “bells” - the call within your vocation to do the next thing?
- Consider your days - now consider two different adjectives: busy | full. FULL implies that days have been prayerfully considered even though they may contain a significant level of activity. BUSY means that you react and go, react and go, with no consideration of the consequences of your schedule. Is your life busy or full? Considered or chaotic?
- List all of the outside the home activities you are committed to in a given week:  
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- Does your day have enough margin (free time) that you’re able to engage your children?
- Have you considered your ordinary duties as the kindling necessary to offer sacrifices to God?

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### THE DOOR

- Is your front door welcoming?
  - Are there practical items you could provide to communicate a sense of welcome?
  - Are there practical chores to attend to just outside your front door that would go further to extend an avenue of welcome up to your front door?
- Is the inside of your home distinct from the outside culture?
- Use three words to describe the atmosphere of your home?  
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- Do you have some concrete (visual & audible) reminders throughout your home to help reveal and remind of the splendor within the ordinary?
- Is there a particular room or chore that needs a beautiful reminder of the task's hallowed purpose?
- Do you mark and celebrate days within your home?
  - A morning offering?
  - What kind of things do you do to consecrate a day and acknowledge it as holy?
  - What is the role of praise in your home? Gratitude?
  - If you have children, do you model this for the children to see?
- Do you follow the rhythm of the liturgical year and mark those Feast days?
  - Do you find this practice overwhelming? If so, why?
    - Are you seeking out ways of marking the day that are most intuitive to you, and allow you to bring your specific gifts to the celebration?
  - Do you identify - perhaps at the beginning of each month - a list of Feast days you will mark and celebrate? Are you realistic about your list in light of your season of life and your chosen obligations?
    - Do you make a list and assemble needed materials for these celebrations?
    - Do you have a way of displaying some small tokens/reminders for a special Feast day? A basket? A shelf? A small table?
- What are the tools that are most intuitive to you in marking Feast days?
  - Mass for a Feast day? OTHERS:
  - Cooking? -----
  - Crafting? -----
  - Reading? -----
  - Playing games? -----
  - Singing? -----

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## Action Questions to Consider

- Identify every single digital door in your home. Include phones, tablets, or computers that have internet access.

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- Do you see these as doors that open and close?
- Have you and your husband discussed the dangers and potential good in these doors?
- Have you formulated a family policy for the use of these doors? (Plan to revisit your policy with each new season as children grow and technology expands.)
- Do you have a digital doorkeeper to assist you in monitoring these doors?
- Have you studied the virtue of prudence?
- Do you regularly seek the virtue of prudence as a couple in making good prudential decisions for your family in a given season?