

Deacon Burke-Sivers says the Eucharist is the core of the family

BY JAMIE CARTER
THE U.P. CATHOLIC

"The Eucharist, Jesus Christ, the Holy Family has to be the core, the heart, the very center of marital and family life. The family needs the nourishment of the Eucharist to survive," stated Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers in a talk at St. Peter Cathedral on Oct. 28. "The more we understand how important our faith is, especially centered on Jesus Christ crucified and giving himself in the Eucharist, the more we understand, the more we live that reality in our lives, the more we break down the walls of division of sin between our spouse and our children, the more deeply we can enter into covenant relationship with God. He's the fountain from which we receive the strength, power and the grace that help us to get to Heaven."

Deacon Burke-Sivers, known around the country as "the Dynamic Deacon" gave a presentation last month titled, "Catholic families: the model for a culture of love and life." He emphasized the importance the Holy Family plays in being a model to families today, and practical exercises in bringing the Church into marriage and family.

He also spoke on the roles of mothers and fathers, explaining that Mary's yes serves as a model to every woman's yes. "Mary's fiat, her yes to the gift of motherhood, her yes to cooperate with the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit, who we pray every Sunday, the Lord and giver of life," he stated.

He added that the yes of a woman

being open to life assists in paving the way for a man to enter into fatherhood. "When a woman says yes, that special gift of intimacy of the Holy Spirit, in only a way a woman can, that yes makes possible the gift of our fatherhood," he said. "Fatherhood is not merely biological. Fatherhood merely flows through the very heart of life. When we reject the heart of love, we reject our own fatherhood."

Deacon Burke-Sivers looked to Ephesians chapter five to lay the ground work for establishing the man's mission in the family. "The wife is supposed to place herself under her husband's mission. What is his mission?" he asked. "Verse 25, 'love your wife as Christ has loved the Church.' How did Christ love the Church? He gave his life and died for her. St. Paul says, 'women place yourself under husband's mission' because his mission is to give his life every day and die for you and your children."

Going back to the example of Mary, Deacon Burke-Sivers said that when Mary was pregnant with Jesus, she held the tabernacle in her womb, and served as the first monstrance.

"When she went to visit Elizabeth that was the first Eucharistic procession. When she got to Elizabeth's house, John the Baptist leapt for joy because when the monstrance entered, he began to adore. John the Baptist was the first adorer of Jesus in the monstrance," he explained. "Imagine what this world would be like if every man looked at a woman and saw the monstrance."

In closing Deacon Burke-Sivers

brought forth how to practically live out the faith within the family. To succeed in this, he advised parents to incorporate family night weekly and lead by example. According to Deacon Burke-Sivers, families should begin a one-hour a week family night. In his family, they do it one night after dinner and the children take turns picking what to do each week.

"When we do this, we're building memories that they're going to take to their own families one day. We're living the Eucharistic life and showing them that family can be filled with joy and they're going to bring that into their own families."

He said parents serve as an example and are the starting blocks for children to love Jesus. "Our greatest hope for our children flows through our greatest gift to them, showing them by our example of what it means to be fully alive in our Cath-



JAMIE CARTER | THE U.P. CATHOLIC
Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, "the Dynamic Deacon" spoke at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette on how the Holy Family serves as a model to the family today.

olic faith. If they want to stay in the Church, they have to fall in love with Jesus. And, when they first fall in love with Jesus is in your house."

Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers serves in the Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon. He has produced several resources on marital and family life. For more information, visit his website at www.deaconharold.com.



Quality furniture at wholesale prices

A Catholic family owned & operated company since 1979

Members of the Diocese of Marquette, Michigan

- Kitchen Cabinets
- Bathroom Cabinets
- Bedroom
- Living Room
- Lodge Camp and Cottage style furnishings
- Dining Room
- Office Furniture
- Mattresses
- Upholstered Sets

Cretens Furniture Factory & Showroom

Perkins Road • Perkins MI

• www.cretensfurniture.com

M F • Sat

Dewitt's

Northern Church Goods, LLC



Restore the beauty of your tabernacle. Call today!
Toll Free 866-950-3378



RadioShack
B&B

Home and vehicle
entertainment
906-387-4483

verizon
wireless
Authorized Agent

Communication
innovations
906-387-4483

Cards & Gifts

Gifts and greeting
cards for any age
906-387-2248

Health Mart
Pharmacy

Your trusted,
hometown pharmacy
906-387-2248

119 Elm Avenue
Downtown Munising

OPEN
Monday-Friday 9am-6pm
Saturday 9am-4pm

Convenient parking at the
front or rear entrance!

906-387-2248

Putvin
Drug Store
SERVING people