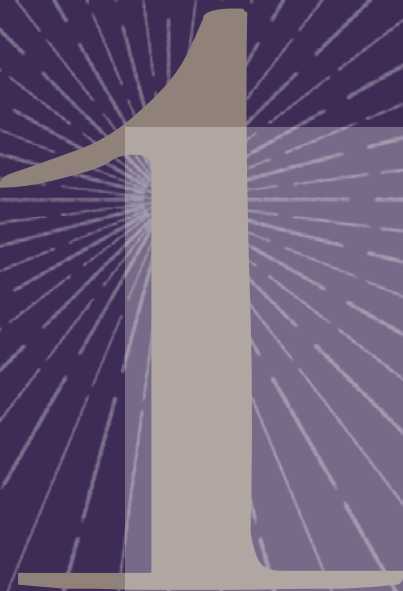




G.K. Chesterton

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS



Christianity was always
a domestic religion.
It began with the Holy Family.

G.K. Chesterton



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The Holy Family is
in danger of insult;
not even because it is holy,
but merely because
it is a family.

G.K. Chesterton

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B

Christianity, even enormous as was its revolution, did not alter this ancient and savage sanctity; it merely reversed it. It did not deny the trinity of father, mother, and child. It merely read it backwards, making it run child, mother, father. This it called, not the family, but the Holy Family, for many things are made holy by being turned upside down.

G.K. Chesterton

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The supreme adventure is being born.
There we do walk suddenly into a splendid
and startling trap. There we do see something
of which we have not dreamed before.
Our father and mother do lie in wait for us and
leap out on us, like brigands from a bush. Our
uncle is a surprise. Our aunt is, in the beautiful
common expression, a bolt from the blue.
When we step into the family, by the act of
being born, we do step into a world which is
incalculable, into a world which has its own
strange laws, into a world which could do
without us, into a world that we have not made.
In other words, when we step into the family
we step into a fairy-tale.

G.K. Chesterton

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5

Most human experience goes
to show that the more a
family is really a family the
better it is—that is, the more
it really consists of
father, mother, and children.

G.K. Chesterton

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6

The family is not a catchword;
it is a concrete and objective
institution with definite limits
and liberties; producing,
wherever it is dominant,
definite tests of authority or
inheritance and a particular
type of popular morality.

G.K. Chesterton

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS





Only men to whom
the family is sacred
will ever have a standard
by which to criticize
the state.

G.K. Chesterton



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To make the
human family happy is
the only possible object
of all education, as
of all civilization.

G.K. Chesterton

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We shall never return to social sanity
till we begin at the beginning.

We must start where all history starts,
with a man and a woman, and a child, and
with the province of liberty and property
which these need for their full humanity.

As it is, we begin where history ends, or,
rather, where disjointed journalism ends.

We stop suddenly with the accidental
truncation of today's news; and
judge everything by the particular
muddle of the moment.

G.K. Chesterton

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10

The first things must be
the very fountains of life,
love and birth and
babyhood; and these are
always covered fountains,
flowing in the quiet courts
of the home.

G.K. Chesterton

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS



A large, stylized number '11' in a gold color is positioned in the top left corner. Behind it is a starburst graphic consisting of many thin, radiating lines and small dots, also in a gold color.

The thing which keeps life
romantic and full of fiery
possibilities is the
existence of these great
plain limitations which
force all of us to meet
the things we do not like or
do not expect.

G.K. Chesterton

A small, stylized square icon with a cross-like pattern inside, located in the bottom right corner. It is surrounded by a starburst graphic of thin radiating lines and dots.

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS



12

The business done
in the home is
nothing less than
the shaping of the bodies
and souls of humanity.
The family is the factory that
manufactures mankind.

G.K. Chesterton

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13

The [school]master must
at best teach morality
mainly in theory;
while the mother is obliged
to teach it in practice.

G.K. Chesterton

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS



14

A young man may
keep himself from vice by
continually thinking of disease.
He may keep himself from it also by
continually thinking of the Virgin Mary.
There may be a question
about which method is the more
reasonable, or even about which is the
more efficient. But surely there can be
no question about which is
the more wholesome.

G.K. Chesterton



G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

15

A man is far more closely linked
with the life of nature
by loving his own children than
by attempting to yearn over
the youthful boa constrictor or
dandle the infant rhinoceros.

G.K. Chesterton

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16

The human race has always admired the Catholic virtues, however little it can practise them; and oddly enough it has admired most those of them the modern world most sharply disputes.

G.K. Chesterton

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17

If you want the common man to fight, you must be offering him the thing for which he fights best—his own honour and this own home.

G.K. Chesterton

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18

The man who lives in a small community lives in a much larger world. He knows much more of the fierce varieties and uncompromising divergences of men.

The reason is obvious. In a large community we can choose our companions. In a small community our companions are chosen for us.

G.K. Chesterton

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19

Life is serious all the time; but living cannot be serious all the time... In anything that does cover the whole of your life – in your philosophy and your religion – you must have mirth. If you do not have mirth you will certainly have madness.

G.K. Chesterton

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20

The whole difference between construction and creation is exactly this: that a thing constructed can only be loved after it is constructed; but a thing created is loved before it exists, as the mother can love the unborn child.

G.K. Chesterton

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21

What is information?

What is good information?

What are the things of and with which a living man should be informed? The first things, one would fancy, would be the roots of his own life; where his bread comes from, and how it can practically be produced out of the earth; where his family comes from, and what are the traditions of his home and the true witness of his fathers to the facts of history. That is the sort of education which... our modern instruction utterly destroys and sweeps away.

G.K. Chesterton

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Marriage. . .

This great human ideal has,
like all human ideals, made
terrible demands on human
nature, and, like all things
which men have at any time
loved, has surrounded itself
with mystery and peril.

G.K. Chesterton

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS





The next great heresy is going to be simply an attack on morality; and especially on sexual morality. And it is coming, not from a few Socialists surviving from the Fabian Society, but from the living exultant energy of the rich resolved to enjoy themselves at last, with neither Popery nor Puritanism nor Socialism to hold them back. The thin theory of Collectivism never had any real roots in human nature; but the roots of the new heresy, God knows, are as deep as nature itself, whose flower is the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eye and the pride of life. I say that the man who cannot see this cannot see the signs of the times; cannot see even the sky-signs in the street, that are the new sort of signs in heaven.

G.K. Chesterton



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24

The essential of [marriage] is
that a free man and a
free woman choose to found on
earth the only voluntary state;
the only state which creates
and loves its own citizens.

G.K. Chesterton

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A large, stylized number '25' in a light beige color. The number is positioned in the top left corner of the image. Behind the number, there is a sunburst or starburst effect with many thin, light-colored lines radiating outwards.

Children need to be
taught primarily the
grandeur of the whole world.
It is merely the whole world
that needs to be taught
the grandeur of children.

G.K. Chesterton

A small, stylized number '25' in a light beige color, located in the bottom right corner of the image. It is surrounded by a sunburst or starburst effect with many thin, light-colored lines radiating outwards.

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

26

A literary man who cannot see
that a baby is marvelous
could not see that anything
was marvelous.

G.K. Chesterton

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Christmas Day

Love is the most
realistic thing
in the world.

G.K. Chesterton

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmastide

As long as a window can open
it will open on the whole world. As
long as a door can shut,
it will shut out the whole world.

The home is not only the
greatest of human institutions,
but the most infinite. It is only
there that we find the root, and
can radiate in all other directions.

G.K. Chesterton

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmastide

The modern world changes its philosophy as often as the modern heroine changes her husband. We have consistently maintained that the family is essential to all social construction in the world of fact. But it is hardly less true that it is essential even to artistic construction in the world of fiction. The family is not only a foundation for a house; it is also a frame for a portrait.

G.K. Chesterton

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Christmastide

As the Christ Child could be
hidden from Herod –
so the child unborn is still
hidden from the omniscient
oppressor... and they seek
his life to take it away.

Abortion is... the
mutilation of womanhood and
the massacre of men unborn.

G.K. Chesterton

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Christmastide

God Himself will not
help us to ignore evil, but
only to defy and to defeat it.

G.K. Chesterton

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmastide

A strange fanaticism
fills our time:
the fanatical hatred of
morality, especially of
Christian morality.

G.K. Chesterton

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmastide

There is an attack
on the family; and
the only thing to do with
an attack is to attack it.

G.K. Chesterton

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Christmastide

How can it be a large career to tell other people's children about the Rule of Three, and a small career to tell one's own children about the universe?

How can it be broad to be the same thing to everyone, and narrow to be everything to someone? No; a woman's function is laborious, but because it is gigantic, not because it is minute. I will pity Mrs. Jones for the hugeness of her task; I will never pity her for its smallness.

G.K. Chesterton

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Christmastide

Our generation, in a dirty,
pessimistic period, has
blasphemously underrated
the beauty of life and
cravenly overrated its dangers.

G.K. Chesterton

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Christmastide

The disintegration of
rational society started
in the drift from
the hearth and the family; the
solution must be a drift back.

G.K. Chesterton

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmastide

Marriage and the family fidelity are essential and sacred things, exactly for those reasons that it cannot be adequately expressed in art at all; for all art is a thing of glimpses, and marriage is a thing of continuity.

G.K. Chesterton

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmastide

The Family is
much more of a fact
even than the State.

G.K. Chesterton

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Epiphany

Go humbly; humble are the skies
And low and large and fierce the Star,
So very near the Manger lies
That we may travel far

G.K. Chesterton

G.K. CHESTERTON: HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Prayer for the Intercession of
G.K. CHESTERTON

GOD OUR FATHER, You filled the life of your servant Gilbert Keith Chesterton with a sense of wonder and joy, and gave him a faith which was the foundation of his ceaseless work, a charity towards all men, particularly his opponents, and a hope which sprang from his lifelong gratitude for the gift of human life.

May his innocence and his laughter, his constancy in fighting for the Christian faith in a world losing belief, his lifelong devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and his love for all men, especially for the poor, bring cheerfulness to those in despair, conviction and warmth to lukewarm believers and the knowledge of God to those without faith.

We beg you to grant the favors we ask through his intercession, [*and especially for...*] so that his holiness may be recognized by all and the Church may proclaim him Blessed. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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For more information about G.K. Chesterton visit www.chesterton.org



G.K. Chesterton: Home for Christmas 2020
Compiled by the Staff of The Society of Gilbert Keith Chesterton

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