G.K. Chesterton
HOME FOR CHRISTMAS
Christianity was always a domestic religion. It began with the Holy Family.

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

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

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

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

G.K. Chesterton
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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 literary man who cannot see that a baby is marvelous could not see that anything was marvelous.

G.K. Chesterton
Christmas Day

Love is the most realistic thing in the world.

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

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

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

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

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

G.K. Chesterton
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
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