

MORE Hot Topics

PRESENTS

From Table to Altar:

The Relationship of Home to Church

by

Rev. James R. Van Dyke, S.J.

On Monday, February 13th, **Rev. James Van Dyke**, a Jesuit priest in the New York archdiocese, will give a presentation entitled “*From Table to Altar: The Relationship of Home to Church*” at Church of St. Thomas More. It is the next in the series **MORE Hot Topics**, which examines parenting and family life in the 21st century. **Rev. Van Dyke** will explore the relationship of “table” and “altar” and offer some reflections on how we—broken as we are—might use the one to help the other as we seek to build both home and church.

In our day many things are called *broken*. Health care, the pundits say, is *broken*. Washington, the partisans of right and left say, is *broken*. The economy, says the Occupy Movement, is *broken*.

Church and Family are not immune to this criticism. As early as the 1960's, some called the Church *broken*, pointing to the paucity of young people in the pews, the invisible confession lines on Saturday afternoon and empty churches on Sunday morning as their proof. And for years we have heard of *broken* families, and the breakdown of family life.

There is much truth to these criticisms, but they are not the whole story. Families are always breaking down, yet they are also always reconciling. And the Church, like the family, is called to be a place of and a community for reconciliation.

It is not a coincidence that the symbol of reconciliation at the core of each is the table—the family's dining table and the Table of the Lord.

Rev. Van Dyke, a former rector of the St. Ignatius Loyola Jesuit Community (New York City), and an educator for many years, is currently teaching English at Fordham Preparatory School. He holds a MALA, from St. John's College (Annapolis), MDiv from Weston School of Theology, ThM from Weston School of Theology and a BA from the University of Virginia.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2012

at 7:00 PM

THE ROCHESTER ROOM

The Church of St. Thomas More

65 East 89th Street - (Between Park & Madison Avenues) - Tel: (212) 876-7719

Visit with the Speaker and Share Light Refreshments Following the Presentation

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