

Holy Family Sunday-2021

Every human being has three psychological needs: to be accepted; to be related; to be loved. When the son of God wanted to be born on earth, he needed-a family/he chose a family: the Holy Family! This remind us of the centrality of family, the gift of love and the beauty of vocation to family life. If life is a blessing, family is a double blessing. We all were blessed to be born into a family.

Family is one of the greatest value God has given you. You can chose your friends, and your life partner! But, *you can never choose your family.* You do not choose your parents, your brothers and sisters. It's all given to you; its God's gift to you. Friends will come and go; family stays back with you always! The only thing that stays back, even when you are rejected by all.

Family is called the "*domestic church*"(JPPII/FC) where we learn faith, grow in faith and share faith. Parents are the first and foremost educators of their children. At its best, *the family is destined to be a school of love*, of compassion & forgiveness; mutual respect, patience and humility; in the midst of a broken world, darkened by selfishness and conflict.

Our contemporary society, which emphasizes on individual satisfaction and subjective fulfillment, easily lose touch with some fundamental measures of dignified, other-oriented culture and relationship.

There are many families that live in continued resentment and anger, siblings without looking face to face, without talking to each other, without making a phone call, without celebrating together even on festive occasions. How many families fight terribly for the estate, the sharing of assets, for a bit more of material benefits?

Friends, we know how hard it is sometimes to cope up with the defect of the other! We should always remember that there is no perfect family on

earth; no perfect husband, no perfect wife. There can be diff. of opinions, dis-agreements and conflicts. But you need to learn to say “*I am sorry*”, to forgive and forget, and to get ahead together as a family. This is what God wants from you. Let’s ask God to give us the gift of empathetic understanding. See the example of Holy Family!

Story: A man who took great pride in his lawn, found himself with a large crop of dandelions. He tried every method he knew to get rid of them, but failed. They plagued him all the time. Finally he wrote to the department of Agriculture, enumerating all the things he had tried; and closed the letter with the question; “what shall I do now?” In due course, the replay came: “we suggest, you learn to love them”.

Friends, sometimes it’s hard to live in peace with some family members, or hard to get rid of their vices; God wants that you need to learn to love them with tolerance, because it is your own family!

Do you think that the HF had no challenges in their life!

Joseph, the just man= *protector and defender* of HF. (At the very outset of their family, faced with the great challenge, having all the right to disown Mary, Joseph decides, “not to disgrace her”!). Joseph’s justice goes beyond the borders of social justice! Mary, when things are beyond her understanding/or why have you done this to us? Mary keeps everything in her heart, and accepts everything as God’s holy will.

Luke: Jesus grew up, in wisdom and in *obedience* to his parents!

-Children, listen to your parents; love them and respect them!

-Parents, find time for your children; they are your greatest blessing!

The family that prays together, stays together. Jesus was at the center of Holy Family. Let Jesus be at the heart of your family too.