



31 December 2017

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Year B

A Happy and Holy Family

Our family is our “little world” – the place where we feel at home. It is the environment where we first feel loved and where we learn to love and care.

Unfortunately, in our days, in far too many cases, the dream of a happy and faithful family has been shattered by selfishness, jealousy, pride, irresponsibility . . .

Our celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family repropose to all of us both the attractiveness of the dream of a united and happy family and the means to make it a reality by living out the message of God’s Word. May the example of Mary Most Holy and Joseph and the teaching of St. Paul be our inspiration in making our families what we dream of and what God wants them to be.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Greeting

P – Grace and peace from God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit be with you.

All – **And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P – Coming together as God’s family, with confidence let us ask his forgiveness, especially for the sins against the members of our own family. *(Pause)*

P – Lord Jesus, forgive our lack of patience, respect and care toward the other members of our family. Lord,

have mercy!

All – **Lord, have mercy!**

P – Lord Jesus, forgive our neglecting to pray together with the other members of our family. Christ, have mercy!

All – **Christ, have mercy!**

P – Lord Jesus, forgive our lack of concern for the welfare and the peace of the greater family that is our parish. Lord, have mercy!

All – **Lord, have mercy!**

P – May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All – **Amen!**

Gloria

All – Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Be-

gotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P – O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All – **Amen!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading Sir 3:2-6.12-14

The respectful attitude of the children toward their parents is an important factor in building up a happy family. Such is the truth inculcated by the pious author Ben Sira in today's First Reading.

R – A proclamation from the Book of Sirach

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons.

Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother.

Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard.

Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives.

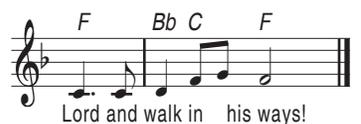
Even if his mind fail, be considerate toward him; revile him not all the days of his life. Kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins – a house raised in justice to you.

The Word of the Lord!
All – Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 128

R – *Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!*

R. M. Velez



* **Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;**

blessed shall you be, and favored. **R.**

* **Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; your children like olive plants around your table.** **R.**

* **Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.** **R.**

2nd Reading Col 3:12-21

Love, mutual respect and concern should be among the special traits of every Christian family. Such is the challenging message of St. Paul to all believers.

R – A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another. As the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these, put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord.

Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.

Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

The Word of the Lord!
All – Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Col 3:15a. 16a

All – Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the peace of Christ control your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:22-40

The opening verses of this passage offer the edifying example of a young family fulfilling the demands of God's law. The central part contains Simeon's inspired profession of faith in the messiahship of Jesus, and his proclamation of the close union of destiny binding together the Child and his Mother.

P – The Lord be with you!

All – **And with your spirit!**

P – A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All – **Glory to you, O Lord!**

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took the baby Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation,

which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted – and you yourself a sword will pierce – so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshipped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord!
All – Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene Creed)

All – I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.* For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he

suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P – With confidence in the Lord who made us members of a Christian family and of the Church, let us pray in a special manner for all families in the world as we say:

All – Lord, make us one family!

C – For the great family of the Church: May its leaders and members enjoy the protection of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Let us pray! **R.**

C – For the immense family of mankind: May the peoples of all races and cultures learn to live in mutual respect and brotherly solidarity. Let us pray! **R.**

C – For all the Filipino families: May their Christian faith and the support of the whole community keep them united and in perfect harmony. Let us pray! **R.**

C – For the families of homeless emigrants: May their members always treasure the values of faith, unity and religious faithfulness, in spite of the physical separation. Let us pray! **R.**

C – For the new families that are being formed now: May they find inspiration in the family of Nazareth and live to the full the teaching of St. Paul on family life. Let us pray! **R.**

C – For our own families: May

the peace of Christ reign in them and may a selfless love keep them united in mutual forgiveness and compassion. Let us pray! **R.**

C – Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (Pause)
 Let us pray! **R.**

P – Lord God, bless all families throughout the world. Bring all the members of every family closer to You and to one another, and keep them in Your peace and love. Through Christ our Lord.
All – Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P – Pray, brethren . . .

All – May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P – We offer you, Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation, humbly asking that, through the intercession of the Virgin Mother of God and Saint Joseph, you may establish our families firmly in your grace and your peace.

Through Christ our Lord.
All – Amen!

Preface of Christmas II

P – The Lord be with you!

All – And with your spirit!

P – Lift up your hearts!

All – We lift them up to the Lord!

P – Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All – It is right and just!

P – It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For on the feast of this awe-filled mystery, though invisible in his own divine nature, he has appeared visibly in ours; and begotten before all ages, he has begun to exist in time; so that, raising up in himself all that was cast down, he might restore unity to all creation and call straying

humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:

All – Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All–Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.



All–Our Father . . .

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All–For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All– Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

P –This is the Lord Jesus, who chose to become a member of a human family. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to his Supper.

All–Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Prayer after Communion

P –Bring those you refresh with this heavenly Sacrament, most merciful Father, to imitate constantly the example of the Holy Family, so that, after the trials of this world, we may share their company for ever.

Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!



P –The Lord be with you.

All–And with your spirit!

P –Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. *(Pause)*
May the Lord of all love keep your families united in

peace and mutual service.

All–Amen!

P –May He enable you to support one another, especially in moments of trial.

All–Amen!

P –May He give you and all the members of your family good health, financial stability, and holiness of life.

All–Amen!

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All–Amen!

P –Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, especially in the members of your own family.

All–Thanks be to God!

OUR FAMILY, GOD’S FAMILY

Many families in our society are a wreck. They exist only in the records of the parish or of the municipal hall and in the memories of years long gone by. Where there used to be kindness and trust, there now reign bitterness and betrayal. Where sharing and love flourished, there is now selfishness or even hatred . . . Most situations of these broken homes have reached a point of no return, with children born of “illegal” partners, and unfaithfulness having become a way of life.

How will these parents raise their children as Christians? What families will these children be able to form? . . .

All this is the result of a crisis of values, a crisis of faith. And a world full of malice and selfishness has easily shattered what was already so feeble inside. Our families need to rediscover the necessity and power of Christian values like love, dedication, respect, faithfulness, forgiveness, purity, faith, prayer . . . Only if these and similar values are treasured will a family be able to weather the inevitable storms of life.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is, for all our Filipino families, the wonderful model they should try to imitate. Only then will the whole Christian community in the Philippines experience that wonderful revival that we all need so badly, and which can only be rooted in the Gospel values exemplified in the family of Nazareth.

That family was not just exceptional because of the unique way in which Jesus was conceived, and because he was the Son of God. That family was also an *ordinary family*. Its members knew what it means to “live by the sweat of one’s brow.” They knew the bitter taste of poverty, rejection, persecution, anxiety, exile . . . They endured it all, trusting only in the Lord and always doing their best. This makes them the object not only of our *admiration*, but also of our *imitation*.

There are also other aspects which make the Holy Family of Nazareth a “model family.” It was a GOD-CENTERED FAMILY. God was their absolute priority, their number one. They lived in His presence, in total trust and availability.

That family was also inimitable in the loving attitude of its members toward one another. “Clothed with heartfelt mercy, kindness, humility, meekness and patience” (Col 3:12) in their daily lives, they practised all the virtues which St. Paul urges all Christian families to treasure and live. Jesus’ family was characterized by sincere, selfless LOVE. This is what makes the Holy Family of Nazareth the model and inspiration of all times and nations.

Every family should have a proper priority of values, respect for the aged, tenderness for the children. It should be one in plan and action, all under God, the Father of all.

This is the family we all should dream of and endeavor to make a reality with the help of God’s grace. Then will our families also become “holy families.”



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