

## Feast of the Holy Family 2020 (QA&SJ)

When God sent his Son into the world he willed that his Son be born into a human family. And because God is love He willed that the family of Jesus would be a family of love. Today's Gospel gives us a glimpse into how the Holy Family of Jesus lived. Joseph and Mary were dedicated and faithful parents; they were God-centered and observed their tradition. They followed the Law of Moses and presented the Child to the Lord in Jerusalem. While writing my homily I Googled family and parenting. Webster's dictionary said, *'the process of taking care of children until they are old enough to take care of themselves.'* Wikipedia said, *'Parenting is the process of promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of a child from infancy to adulthood.'* The **Catechism of the Catholic Church** says, (no.2201-2232) the Christian family constitutes a specific revelation and realization of ecclesial communion, and for this reason it can and should be called a ***domestic church***. It is a community of ***faith, hope and charity***. *It is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Trinity.* The family is called to achieve a *'sharing of thought and common deliberation by the spouses as well as their eager cooperation as parents in the children's upbringing.'*

*"This child is a light and glory for your people."* Simeon sees Jesus as a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Israel. Parents already have hopes and dreams for their children as soon as they are

born. Grandparents and godparents make a prediction of how and who we will be in the future. But all this will depend on the home, *where we need first to grow and become strong, to be filled with wisdom and nurtured by God's favor.* We too wish to see the light in our lives and in everything we do. Like Mary and Joseph we offer to the Lord all that we have and all that we are and live by His word and follow his will and live faithfully.

By becoming fully human Jesus entered through the family, thus sanctifying it. God intended the family so that every child that comes into the world—helpless and fragile – would find love, warmth, care, and security. Family life can be very frustrating if good communication doesn't exist. As shared by a parent, *“My kids call it ‘yelling’ when I raise my voice. I call it motivational speaking for the selective listeners.”* Some call it chaos, we call it family. When one gets married, each one assumes the responsibility of establishing a good relationship in the family and nurtures the children they beget. That's the couple's vocation. And if he or she fails as mother or father, somehow he or she fails in his or her first and foremost obligations to God. Similarly, children's vocation is to honor, respect, and obey their parents. Having children makes you no more a parent than having a piano makes you a pianist. ***Parents are God's cooperators and God's representatives.*** They are not gods, hence imperfect. Parents are expected to constantly give good examples. For instance if parents are

given to alcoholism, infidelity, quarrelling and fighting *what can be expected of the children?* It has been found that the rise of juvenile delinquency is in direct ratio and proportion to parental delinquency. But where the parents set a good example for their children, *obedience is not rendered out of fear of punishment but rather out of love.*

*How do we measure a successful marriage?* A priest friend said, *“The first thing I look for in a married couple is not how successful they are as doctors, lawyers, nurses, businessmen or professionals but how successful they are as a family.”* I love seeing old couples. It makes me realize that aside from God someone can love you forever.

*“They took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.”* Personally, with the year about to end, *can we take everything that we have done during the whole year and present it to the Lord? Can we be proud of everything we have become?* Every family has one weird relative. If you don't know who it is, then it's probably you! *Can we lift high our families and our work?* A test of goodness, they say, **is if you can make your mother proud of everything you do**, or *if you can do openly what you do in private, or if what you do quietly be presented even in front of a crowd.* At the end of this year, let us present to the Lord what we are and what we have and ask him to bless us again this coming New Year!

*Do you want to have a happy family? **Be a Holy Family!*** Today's feast has a message for all of us: **First**, *that we need to invest more of*

*our time in our family and let their love stir our hearts. The secret of an enduring family life is to put the love of God in every aspect of daily living. If it is true that 'love conquers all,' then the love of God will make it possible for every family to overcome all obstacles. **Second,** that the world will only find peace and happiness if it returns to the simple joys of family life, modeled on that of the Holy Family, whom God has given as a blueprint for the Christian home. **May Mary and Joseph make our families pleasing to God, to be the heart and center of every home throughout the world. Amen!***

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