

HOLY FAMILY 2020.

Today we celebrate an important institution in our LIVES as human beings, the Family. We all come from different families and we are gathered here as one wider family of God, the Church. The feast of the Holy Family reminds to think and pray for our families.

In our first reading we have an explanation of each member's **responsibility and accountability in the family**. We need to care and respect all members of the family and especially we need to look after the parents, the aged, and the seniors. They need to be taken care of and be respected regardless of their aging situation and issues. The children have a duty to them, and through this they get blessings.

St. Paul, in the second reading, talks of a real human earthly family. He talks of a typical family of human beings on earth not an angelic family. He is very much aware that in a family we deal and connect with each other and all are unique in one way or another. He is giving us a recipe for such a family. We should be **compassionate, generous, humble, gentle, bearing and withstanding** each other. He is telling us we **must** be **FORGIVING** as soon as a misunderstanding crops up. Above all, we must **LOVE one another**. This is how our families should be as human and Christian families. This will bring **understanding, peace, and stability**.

He is touching on an institution within the family which should be addressed to bring about peace. The institution of Marriage which calls for responsibility and accountability from all parties involved, **HUSBANDS, WIVES, and CHILDREN. All have a duty to RESPECT** each other and help build stability in the family. How are our families? That is the basic question we should ask ourselves and it can only be answered by **you and me. We are called to** offer prayers for our family on this day.

The Gospel gives us this wonderful example of the HOLY FAMILY as we think about our families today. The Holy Family was not a PERFECT FAMILY. It had its share of UPS AND DOWNS. It had its own issues. They did not live on a sunlit island off from the storms of life in the world. They did not always have complete **harmony and understanding**.

They had more than their share of troubles:

- At the birth of Christ, they did not have any accommodations or a reservation at the inn.

-After the birth of Jesus, the joy was short lived due to Herod who targeted the child.

-They became refugees and immigrants, thanks to Africa.

-Back in their country they had to find a place to settle.

-When Jesus was 14 years old, He got lost. The pain of the parents was seen.

-Jesus' public life was a great bother to Mary, as mother she was pierced at the heart.

-The heart was further troubled and pierced on the Cross as she watched her son die on the cross.

Their family was not **STRESS** and **TROUBLE** FREE. Our families, too, have gone through challenges of one kind or another. We are attacked and visited by troubles, sorrows, misunderstandings, and challenges. How do we handle them? Do we let them destroy our families? Do we have any conflict resolution in our families? We are all called to put effort in resolving the issues within the family. We are not called to cause the conflicts but to solve them, as St. Paul says. We must provide that atmosphere of protection and care for the family. We must all take **RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**.

May the Holy Family pray for and watch over our families. May the Good Lord BLESS OUR FAMILIES NOW AND ALWAYS.