

**FR:TK.REFLECTION SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS:**

**A FAMILY AFFAIR:**

Today we celebrate a very important institution in our daily life's, the **family**. Having a family and taking care of it is most challenging job on the planet indeed. The time **invested** in the children, **the financial cost of raising and educating them** to have balanced **spiritual, social moral integrity** needs a lot of **understanding, sacrifice, determination and self giving**.

The celebration today of the Holy family is an opportunity for us to reflect on family life. Our families have the greatest influence on how we live now and in future basically in most of the things and activities we undertake. We are deeply shaped **emotionally, spiritually and mentally** by people in the family more than events in the world. Family is the most important **community we will ever belong to**. We are gathered here today as members of **one family of God, the church**. The central call, of the family is that of **care and respect from all parties, the parents and the children**. We all have **duties, responsibilities towards one another**. Parents are called to upbringing their children in a balanced way, the children are called to **respect their parents at all times (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14)**. Though the parents have high **hopes, dreams, expectations and influence over the children, they should not push** the children rather should be encourage to channel **and attain** their dreams **with responsibility and freedom as they grow**.

Generally it is in the family where we start learning the virtues of **patience, responsibility, cooperation, self-discipline, self control and dealing with authority**. Imagine if one doesn't have such proper foundation and base, the consequences could be far reaching and devastating to the young one. (*Asiye funzwa na mamaye, ufunzwa na ulimwengu* (Kiswahili proverb - *if you are not told by your mother, the world will teach you*). Our parents and family plays a very important role in our growth, it is the **living cell of the large community, the church and it is a bridge which connects several generations**.

**As we celebrate the Holy family,note the fact that it had still its challenges in one way or another,it was not a perfect family** since it was a family of human beings with **shortcomings and limitations**. Despite all the challenges faced by the holy family,there was mutual respect in all,of them,**joseph,mary and the child Jesus,which we ought to imitate**.They had a share of their **worries and anxieties right from the time they were engaged practically throughout their life's**.They faced a lot of challenges.Imagin the the time *child Jesus* got lost as a youth,are our parents not worried always on well being of their children and youth!Mary and Joseph parented the child Jesus well something for the parents to borrow a leaf from through **prayer and communicating**.Parents are called to be **firm in instilling** discipline but don't be too hard on the young growing person who is trying to locate and find himself in this confusing world.obviously the children will need **love,guidance and understanding** during these difficult times under the threat and influence of **modern technology,social media,culture of drugs and substance**,otherwise they will be victims of **teachings of the world**.

We must think and go back to our cultures back to the family.The kind of the family we want ,the **decision will not be made in Rome Vatican, Hague,Washington DC**.but rather in the ***Family***.

**MAY THE HOLY FAMILY PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES ESPECIALLY THOSE IN CHALLENGING SITUATIONS:**

**Note:*This is the last reflection for 2023,thank you for sharing with me the whole year and we thank God everything.***

**HAPPY 2024:**