

FR.TK. REFLECTIONS THE HOLY FAMILY -C-2024:

A FAMILY AFFAIR:

Today we celebrate a very vital institution in our life, **family**. Having a family and **taking care of it** is a very tasking and challenging exercise. The time **vested in the children, financially, raising them up, educating them** that they may have a balanced **spiritual, moral, social integrity** needs a lot of **sacrifice, understanding determination and self giving**. It is so difficult in our current society with all the economical and modern technological imbalances.

The celebration today of the Holy family is an opportunity for us to **reflect on our family life**. Our families psychologically have the greatest **influence in our life now and in future**, in all the activities we undertake. We are shaped **emotionally, spiritually and morally by** people in the family more than the great impact we face in the society. Family is the greatest **community we will ever belong**. Today we are gathered here as members of one family of God the church. The central call of the family is of **care, respect from all parties**, children and parents each has **duty and responsibility for each others well being**. This is clearly stated in the first reading (Sir 3:2-t, 12-14) children called to respect their parents always and parents being called not to discourage their children as they grow. Despite the fact that parents have high **control, influence, hopes, dreams and expectation** in their children, yet they should be given directed freedom to **choose, attain and channel** their dreams **responsibly** as they grow.

It is in the family where the great **virtue** according to our second reading are learned (col. 3:12-

21) **patience, discipline, honesty, fidelity, compassion, patience and self control** these are all having foundation in the family. It is a living cell of the large family, the church and a bridge which connect several generations hence the family is the foundation of everything in life. It is a place where general care for each other is seen, where we grow and learn, where we can come in any crisis and be welcome in a **loving, caring, environment thus getting strength and support.**

As we celebrate the feast of Holy family, we are not celebrating an isolated family but rather a normal ordinary human family, with **all issues, challenges, anxieties and difficulties like ours.** They had their share of the problems but they they had a good support system they relied on God, who helped them face their difficulties, shortcomings and limitations as human beings hence we should turn to him too. Mary and Joseph succeed due to their **relationship and connection with God and doing the his will. Am the hand Maid of the Lord May your will be done on me.** They visited the temple, as a family together with the child Jesus. We must practice this culture take priority like holy family. keep these two rules **love of God and one another.** You will win the battle, The kind of family you want the decision is not going to be made in Vatican, Hague, London, Washington DC but in the **family. May the Holy Family pray for us.**

Note: This is the last Reflection for the 2024. THANK YOU

ALL: Happy 2025: