

Homily for the Feast of the Holy Family Year A

A young couple once brought their first baby home from the hospital. Their house suddenly felt too small, too noisy, too messy. Sleepless nights, feeding schedules, crying, and tiredness began to test their patience.

One night, the baby cried for almost an hour. The father, frustrated and exhausted, said, “Why won’t he stop? Something is wrong.” The mother replied softly, “Nothing is wrong... he just needs us.”

Then she added, “You know... families don’t become holy when everything is perfect. They become holy when we learn to love each other in the imperfect moments.”

Later that night, the baby fell asleep in their arms. The father looked at his wife and said, “I think I’m still learning to be a dad.” She smiled and said, “We’re all learning. That’s what family is.”

This simple story reminds us of exactly what we celebrate today in the Feast of the Holy Family. We know that *The Holy Family* consists of the Child Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and Saint Joseph.

This Holy Family of Nazareth (Jesus, Mary, and Joseph) did not live a problem free life, they did face misunderstandings, hardships, anxiety, and uncertainty, yet they remained faithful, united, and trusting in God.

The family of Nazareth Jesus, Mary, and Joseph did not become holy because everything in their life was perfect. They became holy because they faced every difficulty with faith, patience, and love. Let me share from the Gospel the very human challenges they faced.

Unexpected Pregnancy and Social Tension

Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit before living with Joseph (Mt 1:18). To others, this looked suspicious. Joseph himself struggled and planned to “quietly divorce her” until the angel spoke to him. Because of this there was misunderstanding, social judgment and confusion.

Long, Difficult Journey to Bethlehem

In the Gospel of Luke 2:1–5, we read that Mary, who was with child, had to travel with Joseph about 90 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census. Though the Gospel does not describe the details, we can imagine the physical hardship, exhaustion, and the risks to both mother and child during such a long journey.”

Escape to Egypt

We read in the Gospel of Mt 2:13–15 that King Herod wanted to kill the Child. Joseph had to take Mary and Jesus and flee immediately, at night. They faced threat to life, fear, sudden displacement and uncertainty.

Life as Refugees in a Foreign Land

They lived in Egypt as immigrants. No relatives, no home, new language, new customs. They faced cultural struggle, starting from zero and economic hardship.

Losing Jesus in the Temple

We read the story of Jesus in the Temple in the Gospel of Luke 2:41–52. The Holy Family goes to Jerusalem for the Passover and Jesus was twelve years old at that time. After the celebration Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. Mary and Joseph searched for Him anxiously for three days and eventually they found him among the scholars. They faced problems of parental fear, miscommunication and emotional stress.

Joseph's Death (Tradition)

Christian tradition holds that Joseph died before Jesus began His ministry, leaving Mary a widow and Jesus the supporter of the home. The Holy Family faced the problem of grief, loneliness, responsibility and emotional pain. These things tell us that the Holy Family has gone through so many problems and pains. What do we learn for this Holy Family today?

This is the message; ***Holiness is not the absence of problems. Holiness is the presence of love, faith, and trust in the middle of problems.***

The Holy Family teaches us:

When there is confusion : pray and listen to God together.

When there is hardship : support one another.

When there is danger or fear : stay united.

When there is misunderstanding : seek understanding, not blame.

When there are adjustments to be made : make them with love.

Today, as we honor the Holy Family, this Holy Family is the model for our families. Let all our families be a home like Nazareth, ***with prayer, patience, acceptance, respect, and forgiveness.***

No family is perfect. Every family has got lots of ups and downs. But *every family can be holy when love becomes the daily language. May Jesus, Mary, and Joseph guide all our families to unity, peace, and joy. May God bless all of us families.* Amen.