

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, December 26, 2021
Holy Family
Cycle C

Christmas is the season of gift-giving. I'm sure you have received something special from people close to you. But going beyond material gifts, Christmas is the time when we recognize the greatest gift we receive from God: Jesus Christ. He is God's gift because through His becoming like us, we became sharers of His divine life. But that's not all. Along with the salvation that Jesus granted us, He made us children of His own Father. We become members of the heavenly family.

In today's celebration, the Feast of the Holy Family, the Gospel inspires us to reflect on the life of the Holy Family of Nazareth. As a human family, they lived in love, understanding, peace, concern for one another, and holiness. They fulfilled the prescription of the law as a family. And, having a healthy environment, Jesus, through the examples of His parents, "was obedient to them" and "advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man."

But the most striking part of today's Gospel is when Jesus said, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" This statement can be linked to Luke 11:2: "When you pray, say: 'Father.....'" If we sum up the sense of these two passages, we can clearly see that Jesus gifted us by sharing with us His Sonship. We are given the privilege to acknowledge His Father as Our Father. From our own families, we become members of the Family of God.

The Holy Family is our model. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph will teach us how to become true children of God. And that is through faithfulness to the will of God. The Holy Family survived from every hardship because of the presence of God in their midst. Many families have been broken maybe because they forgot one most essential ingredient in the family, putting God in their midst. The family that prays together, stays together.

Amen