

2020 December 27

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Reading:

First: Genesis 15.1-6, 17.3b-5, 15-16. 21.1-7, "You shall be the father of a multitude of nations." (7)

The Psalm: 105, "Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually." (3)

Second: Hebrews, 11.8-12-19, "Abraham considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead." (11)

The Gospel: Luke 2.22-40 "My eyes has seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples." (12)

Parenting endless Generations!

Abraham received a promise, a covenant, from God to become the father of generations. This covenant reaches out to endless generations including ours and will extend to all generations till the end of time. Abraham's call was to prepare a people from whom the Redeemer God was to take birth as human, and thereby re-assume humanity into divinity. to lift up the fallen humanity back to the original level of divinity. Humans were created in the image and likeness of God, and as God's children. And that likeness and image were that of a family, the family of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Hence the rightful place of every human being is in the family and with the family, framed into a union of father, mother and children. Any thinking or thinking shades different from this originates from Satan, who is bent upon shattering the divine design of family institution on earth.

Joseph and Mary were chosen to be the immediate family for the Redeemer to be born as a human child. This long expected birth made the family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus the Holy Family. The story of the Holy Family does not end there or with Jesus. The covenant of God with Abraham was the reinforcement of God's redeeming covenant with the first family and the first parents on earth, Adam and Eve. Since God's covenant was an everlasting one, it has to continue even after the physical disappearance of Jesus from earth. The birth of Jesus into humanity is a continuing divine act, He is being born into our human families, making every family on earth a dwelling place of divinity, every family on earth is a holy family.

Each human person born on earth is an image of God. The more each family on earth realizes that it is the dwelling place of divinity the faster heaven and earth will be reunited. The blessing bestowed on the families on earth is the accompaniment of Mary and Joseph in their lives to make Jesus be born and growing therein, making them grow along with Jesus. It is Jesus' way of heaven happening in our lives, gradually leading and taking us home, to his home, and to our home, and thus, humanity and divinity merging together, leading to a continuous celebration of the fullness of joy, peace and happiness.

To make our pilgrimage on earth enjoyable and endurable we must ponder on the prophecy and blessing of Simeon in the temple given to our Blessed Mother Mary. We all humans on earth are partakers and sharers of this prophetic blessing along with the Holy Family. Though Mary was the chosen Mother of the Redeemer and Joseph her husband entrusted with fostering and bringing him up into manhood on earth, they were not spared from the toils, the privations and pains, physical, mental and spiritual, of the earthly life like any other human person on earth. Simeon's prophecy and blessings are also to us and for us. Appropriate

them, live them along with Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Life will truly be worth living, joyful, and attractive to others and attracting others to us!

Fr. George

(The readings of the day are given at the beginning. The numbers in parentheses refer to the quotes from them. Good to go through the readings beforehand to properly understand the Reflections)

