

Day 3: Intercession for Marriage and family

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. And when they saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously." And he said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which he spoke to them. And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man. Luke 2:41-52

Meditation

What binds families together in mutual love, harmony, and care for one another? The centre of family life for the Jewish people was the word of God in the Scriptures. It was the duty of all Jewish parents to raise their children in the instruction and wisdom of God's word in the Scriptures.

"These words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" [Deuteronomy 6:6-7; 11:19].

God the Father reveals his rich favour, blessing, and joy to all who listen to his word and who follow his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you follow and obey the Son who shows us the way to our Father's house and family in heaven?

Pope Francis in *Amoris Laetitia* offers words of wisdom to reflect on for marriages and for families.

"The Joy of Love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church. As the Synod Fathers noted, for all the many signs of crisis in the institution of marriage, 'the desire to marry and form a family remains vibrant, especially among young people, and this is an inspiration to the Church'." (AL1)

"Every family should look to the icon of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Its daily life had its share of burdens and even nightmares, as when they met with Herod's implacable violence... Like Mary, our families are asked to face their challenges with courage and serenity, in good times and bad, and to keep in their heart the great things which God has done (Lk 2:19, 51). The treasury of Mary's heart also contains the experiences of every family, which she cherishes. For this reason, she can help us understand the meaning of these experiences and to hear the message God wishes to communicate through the life of our families". (AL30)

Prayer

Lord Jesus, Come! Be the beating heart of all families on earth. May the grace of your Holy Family bring to those who are broken and courage to those who are afraid. May your love shine brightly in the hearts of parents towards their children to dispel the darkness of this world and bring hope to generations yet unborn.