Holy Family 2020

MDP of God

Just a couple of days ago we celebrated the glorious birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Even though He was born in humble circumstances---being born in a stable surrounded by animals doesn’t sound real glorious

But it was glorious in that ---Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

When He was born the angel proclaimed the good news to the shepherds---a choir of angels sang of His glory

Eventually the Magi would come from afar to adore Him

So that first Christmas was a time of incredible glory---as earth and heaven were united—as the Creator of the world humbled Himself to become one of us---as the light of heaven overcame the darkness of earth

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And God changed everything---I mentioned in my Christmas homily how the shepherds were seen as the lowest of the low in Israeli culture—they were the bottom of the barrel when it came to social standing---*yet the all-powerful Creator of heaven and earth chose* ***to allow them*** *to be the first to hear the good news of the birth of the Savior*---**Why?**

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Because Jesus wanted to emphasize one of the most profound truths of creation—that is that every person is made in the image and likeness of God---every person has incredible dignity because of that

And now today---on the Feast of the Holy Family--- we have the opportunity to reflect on God’s original plan in creating us---*and that’s the plan of the human family*

We should ponder---why is it that the fundamental unit in just about every culture has been the family?—It’s because the human family is supposed to point us to God Himself

God is a life giving community of love

The human family is supposed to be a life-giving community of love

But we see at the time of the Fall—and then throughout the bible how sin marred what the family was supposed to be

So Adam was supposed to guard the Garden and protect His bride---but Adam failed to protect His bride

Then when God confronts Adam about his sin---*he again doesn’t protect his bride-*--**he could have fallen on his knees and said,** “God it’s all my fault—I failed to protect the Garden—I failed to protect my bride---Punish me, not her Lord. I let her down, I let you down, please forgive us”

*But that’s not what Adam did*---**instead he throws her under the bus**---when God confronts him about sin--- Adam says, “The woman”---“The woman you put here God---it’s her fault –it’s your fault---God it’s not my fault”

So instead of that first family being the community of love God made it to be---it becomes a group of people who blame each other—who fail to protect each other---where everybody seeks their own interest even to the point of hurting others

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We see that in the story of Cain and Abel—two brothers---and of course in God’s plan brothers are supposed to love each other---because the family is meant to be a community of love

But in Cain and Abel---*we see Cain* ***envy*** *his brothers relationship with the Lord*—to the point he commits violence against him and kills his brother

So again—the family instead of being the community of life giving love that God intends it to be---we see in the family—selfishness and hatred and **life taking** violence

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Now this is a little side issue here---but this lays the groundwork of how God chooses to save us

So Adam and Eve sin at a tree---so Jesus in saving us is “hung on a tree”

Adam fails to protect his bride-- and then blames her after the Fall---so Jesus who is the new Adam---He does protect His bride the Church---in fact He lays down His life for His bride---He takes the rightful punishment of all of us who comprise the Church—the bride of Christ---and He takes our punishment on Himself

And again—the family is supposed to be a community of life giving love---so Jesus in loving His bride the Church—*and it’s in His bride the Church that we are born to new life*---the baptismal font is the womb of Holy Mother the Church---where Jesus’ love for His Bride allows us to come to a new birth into the family of God

Which then makes us brothers and sisters to each other—and we are called to love our brothers and sisters—even though they’re not perfect—even though our brothers and sisters make mistakes---sometimes really big mistakes---they might cut us off in the parking lot---**whatever**

But anyway—we’re supposed to love our brothers in sisters in Christ

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Now getting back to the main point of this homily

So Jesus when He came into the world to save us---the first thing He does is sanctify the human family

He’s born into a family--- *for the first 30 of His 33 years in this world*---**He lived in a family**

Working with Joseph—being obedient to His Mother and foster father---*He sanctified the family*

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived as a community of love

When Jesus was first conceived in this world by the power of the Holy Spirit—Joseph at first was going to quietly divorce Mary

But when the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream---Joseph stepped up to the plate and took Mary into his home as his bride---*he could have rejected Mary*—he could have said “I want nothing to do with her---but he responded to Mary with love---*and his love protected her*—**and protected Jesus**

Had Joseph chosen too—he could have had Mary stoned to death with her unborn child---*but Joseph chose to love her and her Son*

Now contrast that with the first family of Adam and Eve—Cain and Abel

Joseph protects his bride where Adam failed miserably to protect his

Joseph’s love keeps His family safe---Adam’s failure to protect his bride and then blaming her—brings destruction on his family—and *we see that manifested in a horrible way in the lives of Cain and Abel*

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So we see in the Holy Family—the family once more becoming what God made it to be—a community of life-giving love

When Jesus comes to the world to save us—the 1st thing He does is sanctify the family---because the family is at the center of God’s plan for human life

Even in saving us---He uses the model of the family---where we’re born again into His family—where we are made brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ---where we are called to love our brothers and sisters in Christ---where we’re called to worship together—pray together—build each other up—help each other—be concerned for one another

My friends—when sin came into the world—the first casualty was the family

Now in saving the world—the 1st thing Jesus does is sanctify the family

*We want to strive to make our families what God made them to be---communities of love*

Communities of love where husbands and wives love each other even when their spouse isn’t perfect---as Jesus loves His Bride the Church—even when we’re not perfect

As Joseph loved Mary---even when he didn’t fully understand what was going on with her

Communities of love *where brothers and sisters recognize each other’s dignity* **and treat each other with dignity**---even when they see the failings of brothers and sisters

Communities of love where children are obedient to their parents---as Jesus was obedient to Joseph and Mary

*You know folks*—**that really boggles the mind**---Jesus is the all-powerful God---and yet the bible tells us that He was obedient to Joseph and Mary

If Jesus--- *the all-powerful God* could be obedient to His earthly parents---you can be certain that He wants young people to be obedient to their parents when they’re growing up

Communities of love where children honor their parents---as Jesus honored His Mother

You know Jesus honored Mary in allowing her intercession to lead to His 1st miracle [wedding feast of Cana]

You think of all the times Jesus could have chosen to perform His 1st miracle---but He chose to allow Mary’s intercession to lead to His 1st miracle because He wanted to heap honor upon His Mother

And of course He did that when He was an adult---because He wants men and women to seek to heap honor upon their parents no matter what age they are

My friends—I just want to ask you to contemplate how well you are seeking to live your family life as God intends family life to be

Are you seeking to make your family a community of love---or are you seeking your own wants even if that harms your family?

Husbands---are you seeking to sacrifice for your bride---as Joseph did for Mary---as Jesus did for His bride the Church---or do you seek to please yourself even if it’s harmful to your wife?

Wives are you seeking like Mary---to build a family of love---being respectful of your husband—sacrificing for your children?

Kids---are you respectful—and if your minors—are you obedient to your parents?

Jesus honored His parents----He even obeyed His parents even though they were only human and He was/is the all-powerful God---so are you respectful to and if you’re a minor are you obedient to your parents?

Young people---when people see the way you treat your siblings---are they reminded of Cain and Abel or do they see you treating your siblings with love and respect?

My friends—one of the first things Jesus did in saving the world was to sanctify the human family

I ask you to contemplate your relationships within your family---are you seeking to make your family a community of Love? Are you seeking to make your family a holy family?

Are you loving your spouse—your parents—your sons and daughters—your brothers and sisters---as God calls us to love each other?

As Jesus came to sanctify the family---He even now is willing to shower His grace upon us so we can love as He calls us to love—so we can love our family’s as He calls us to love

Let’s open our hearts to His grace and seek to make our families the Holy Family God wants it to be