

## **Family Love, Unity, And Peace!**

The whole celebration of Christmas has been within the context of a family. Jesus, the son of God was born within the family of Mary and Joseph. Within the Christmas octave, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family- the family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. In this feast, we celebrate the gift of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus who said yes to the will of God for the salvation of all of us. The Holy Family becomes a model to us in our families, either as a father or a mother or a child.

The readings of today invite each us to reflect on our responsibilities towards making our families, where love, unity, and peace abide. The first reading calls for profound respect children should give to their parents, especially in their old age. St. Paul in the second reading calls for mutual respect in families as a way to promote love, unity, and peace in a family. We become instruments of this love, unity, and peace through acts of kindness, forgiveness, tolerance, and patience with one another.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph trusted in the will of God in different life situations they faced. The presence of God reigned in their families, an example we are called to emulate. As Mary and Joseph presented the child Jesus to the Lord in the Gospel and God's blessings were showered upon them. Likewise, through prayer, we have to continue unceasingly to present our families and ourselves to God.

***“Blessed is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; You will be happy, and it will be well with you (Psalm 128:1)***