

Daily Reflections



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's First Reading

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother.

My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins – a house raised in justice to you.

SIRACH 3:2-6, 12-14

Reflection

The first human relationships are experienced within the family setting, and they are the most influential in human development. This reading from Sirach comes from a longer commentary on family life offering a practical application of the fourth commandment: “Honor your mother and your father” (Exodus 20:12).

Care for one’s parents was seen as a sacred duty. To fail in this duty was understood as a failure to live out the covenant with God. The author writes of certain consequences to the correct attitude toward parents, i.e., the traditional blessings of having a long life and riches as rewards for faithful children.

For Pondering

- How do you "honor" a person?
 - What consequences do you experience when you honor someone? When someone honors you?
-



Holy Family Figurines
Photo by Jinu Joseph

Today's Second Reading

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord.

COLOSSIANS 3:12-21

Reflection

Paul supports an atmosphere of familial care and concern wherever he begins the foundation for a new Christian community. He focuses on the harmony that is meant to characterize the Christian family, where bitterness has no place for those who belong to one another “in the Lord.” Family members are encouraged to recognize that they are connected to one another having received God’s gracious redemption and love. Those are holy gifts to be shared.

For Pondering

- Who supports and encourages you in your family setting?
 - What is your role in the family?
 - Through your faith tradition, you entered into the extended family of God. How do you live out respect/reverence for each member you encounter?
-

For Prayer

Pray this prayer with the view of family, of community, as included in life’s miracles.

*Open my eyes,
O God,
to the marvels that surround me.
Show me the wonder
of each breath I take,
of my every
thought,
word
and movement.
Let me experience the miracle
of the world I witness -----
ever mindful
and always appreciative
of all you have made.*

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

Support CSD



Visit Website

714-744-3172

Join Mailing
List



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by thecsd@csjorange.org