

*Sermon from the Feast of the Holy Family, Part 2*

March 11, 2018

From the foundation of solid virtue there will naturally be obedience. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity was subject to Mary and Joseph. This takes a lot of meditation and reflection: God subject to creatures! He is teaching us the importance of obedience. And not just a reluctant obedience, for He was subject to them for 90% of His life here on earth. What do we learn from this? That the little, and not-so-little, acts of prompt obedience on the part of children to their parents are an important way to practice being Christian, a follower of Christ.

Our Lord is obedient to the Father, obedient to death on the Cross, but He was also obedient to Mary and Joseph. This is such an important foundation for family life. There has to be proper order for peace to reign in the home, and if obedience lacks, or has to be fought for each time, there will be no peace and no happiness.

Happiness in the home does not just happen, nor is it a gift. It is not even a gratuitous gift from God. It is something we have to work on with God's grace. The people in the home have to work at making it to be a happy, holy home. It begins with each member making his own efforts.

The parents are set in authority over their children, and they should, with all charity and gentleness, guide the children in wisdom, having reflected on and studied, if necessary, how best to do this. It is not easy, but taking the time to reflect and guide the children properly pays dividends in the future. It is going to be the parents' solid practice of virtue that leads the children to do the same.

Without the practice of virtue, a happy home life simply cannot be. But with a genuine and deep love of Christ, and sacrifice and an openness to God's grace, this happiness is possible, even if injury or sickness or other misfortune strikes the family.

The modern redefinition of the family cannot lead to this happiness here below and certainly not to eternal happiness. The destruction of the family is leading so many souls away from God. But for those who want to serve God, God will give you the grace to rebuild family life in this country, starting with one family at a time. You have an important role in this country and in eternity.

May the Holy Family bless you.

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