

# ***Sacrifice for Our Family***



## **I. A LOOK AT THE THREE READINGS**

### **FIRST READING** (Sir 3:2-6,12-14)

<sup>2</sup>For the Lord sets a father in **honor** over his children/ and confirms a mother's authority over her sons./ <sup>3</sup>Those who **honor** their father atone for sins;/ <sup>4</sup>the children,/ and **when they pray they are heard**./ <sup>6</sup>Those who **respect** their father will live a long life;/ those who **obey** the LORD honor their mother./ <sup>12</sup>My son, be **steadfast in honoring** your father;/ do not grieve him as long as he lives. <sup>c/</sup> <sup>13</sup>Even if his mind fails, be considerate of him;/ do not revile him because you are in your prime./ <sup>14</sup>Kindness to a father will not be forgotten;/ it will serve as a sin offering—it will take lasting root.

**THE FOCUS:** **Respect for our Parents**

### **COMMENTARY**

- The text comes from the group of Deuterocanonical books of the OT.
- Honor, and its related concept or idea, is repeated six times. It is God who gives honors to our parents.
- The text exhorts us to respect our father even if his mind fails (v. 13).
- V. 14 says even if they are old and we are in our prime years, and sometimes due to generations gap, their judgments fall short, still the Wisdom Teacher tells us our kindness to them will serve something like a sin-offering of the foolishness of our youth
- Wisdom says we may never feel the effect now, but surely the kindness and understanding we show to them will have lasting effects.

### **REFLECTIONS**

Ben Sirach says parenting is a privilege and an honor. But it is also a responsibility. There is

of course expected roles for parents.

But even if parents, in their limited knowledge and exposure or experience, fall short in living up to their duties as parents, we have to respect them. And communicating properly with them, leveling out our feelings and point of view may be part of the respect and kindness we have to extend to them.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10)  
**BLESSED ARE THEY WHO DWELL  
IN YOUR HOUSE, O LORD.**

### **SECOND READING** (Col 3:12-21)

#### ***Relationship with one another***

<sup>12</sup>Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt **compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience**, <sup>13</sup>**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. <sup>14k</sup>And over all these put on **love**, that is, the bond of perfection.

#### ***Relationship with Christ / God***

<sup>15l</sup>And let the **peace** of Christ **control** your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16m</sup>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. <sup>17n</sup>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.

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (C) December 30, 2018

### *Familial relationships*

<sup>18\*</sup> Wives, **be subordinate** to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. <sup>19</sup> Husbands, **love** your wives, and **avoid** any **bitterness** toward them. <sup>20\*</sup> Children, **obey** your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>21\*</sup> Fathers, **do not provoke** your children, so they may not become discouraged.

**THE FOCUS: How We should be Related to One Another**

### COMMENTARY

- The text talks about relationships on all levels: with one another; with Christ / God and with other members of the family. Take note: men are mentioned twice: as husbands and fathers.
- Taking cue from the author (the Christian identity), each Christian must be compassionate, kind and considerate (v.12).
- The Christian must be patient (bearing with one another) and forgiving (part of being patient).
- Human relationships always carry with it misunderstandings and brokenness.
- In relation to God, the author exhorts Christians to be controlled by the peace of Christ; be animated by the word of God; to teach and admonish others; to do everything in the name of God, etc. (v.16).
- The secret of familial relationships is submission to one another (vv.18-21).
- There should be no domination or provocations or insubordinations.
- Each member must seek to establish relationships with the other members of the family.

### MY REFLECTIONS

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### GOSPEL READING (Lk 2:41-52)

#### *Situationer*

<sup>41\*</sup> Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, <sup>42</sup>and when he

was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. <sup>43</sup>After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. <sup>44</sup>Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him.

#### *Jesus in the Temple and his being found*

<sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, <sup>47</sup>and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that **I must be in my Father's house?**" <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he said to them.

#### *Jesus going home and being obedient*

<sup>51\*</sup>He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and **was obedient** to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. <sup>52\*</sup>And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

**THE FOCUS: Obedience to the Father and to the Parents.**

### COMMENTARY

- Vv.41-42 indicates Joseph and Mary's obedience to the law: to attend the annual Passover in Jerusalem.
- V.43 is somehow problematic to us. How come Jesus did not inform his parents of his plan to stay behind? (The author just describes how things unfold).
- V.44, a verse of presumption. Should we find fault with Mary and Joseph on this? (The author does not judge, no comment; he just continues developing his story).
- V.45, another verse of presumption (he might be there), but they had no way of knowing he was there.
- V.46 reports of the finding of Jesus. Joseph

and Mary's efforts were rewarded. Now the focus begins on Jesus: sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them, asking questions.

- V.47 records the reaction of people around (wisdom and answers).
- V.48 reports of the reaction of his parents. The question reveals of a worried parent: "Why have you done this to us?"
- In v.49, Jesus too amazes them too. He is old enough (really?) to be responsible for himself. He is not a boy anymore. By now he must be doing his mission.
- V.50 reports of the reaction of his parents: did not understand... Maybe they did not know yet the mission of Jesus.
- V.51 reports he is still their son, an obedient son; Luke makes a special remark on Mary: She kept all these things in her heart. What does this mean? Meditated, reflected upon, continued questioning, searching for meaning?
- V.52 picks up the idea of the growth of Jesus (in wisdom and favor). Luke prepares us to encounter the adult Jesus very soon.

## MY REFLECTIONS

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## II. TYING THE THREE READINGS TOGETHER TO DEVELOP YOUR SHARING/HOMILY

The First Reading talks about honoring our parents. The Second Reading instructs us to establish good relationships in the family. The Gospel Reading tells the importance of obeying the will of the Father (*your mission, assignment*).

### ***How to develop your homily/sharing***

Today is the feast day of the Holy Family.

The preacher must focus on the importance of certain ingredients to build a sound, normal, and happy family.

The First Reading teaches patience and perseverance especially in times of conflicts and

contradictions. The Second Reading teaches submission to one another, submission in good faith, granting that the others (husband, wife, children) have good will. The Gospel teaches obedience to the Father and to parents.

What happens to a family if even just one member has no patience, does not know how to obey (respect) one's parents? Chaos, conflicts, etc.

Each member of the family must develop a sense of belongingness by being patient to the idiosyncrasies (*katok*) of each one.

Each family member must act properly as husband, wife, father, and children. No one should pretend to be the other. Each one should admit one's dependence on the other; cooperation among themselves must be promoted.

In the family, that "*kanya-kanya*" (selfish) attitude should not be tolerated. Each one should recognize one's own poverty. Only others can fill it.

Each one in the family (parent, child) should remember that one is a child of God. Therefore, one is obliged to obey God. Obedience to God and to parents is an important ingredient to maintain the integrity of the family. You express your trust through obedience.

The cause of family breakdown is impatience and inability to obey parents. Here we talk about normal parents who know parenting, who are responsible, who fear the Lord, etc.

Too bad today, many become parents without knowing how to become good parents; many children listen more to the *yayas* and *barkadas*, TV and Internet than their "busy" parents. Members of the family: If you want to live a normal and happy life, build your family. Make sacrifices. Obey God and parents.

-Prepared by Fr. Cielo Almazan, OFM

## III. OUR CONTEXT

1. What's your take on the controversial RH Bill?

2. What do you think are new developments that help in the build up of family relationships? (HM).