

PASTOR'S CORNER



For a child is born to us, a son is given us.

Jesus Christ, the Word of God, the very Son of God, coequal and coeternal with the Father – chose to enter into a human family as a child – truly born of a woman, sharing in her nature – truly under the guardianship of a man who was his father in every respect except biology. In the Mystery of The Finding of Jesus at the Temple, we are told that the omnipotent Lord God and creator of the Universe *went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them* – obedient to two mere creatures.

These beautiful readings and feasts around the Holy Family remind us that we're not born the radical self-sufficient autonomous individuals our society would have us be – that's not even what we're made for. We are born already in a family, already in a community of persons: a communion of knowledge and of love. Family is the foundation of our life; it is the foundation of our society. God who is all powerful, who can do whatever he wants, confirms this by being born into a human family himself – to share in the life and love in which our nature was made to participate.

Now all of us were born into families and not one of our families was perfect. Each one has had shortcomings and faults. Indeed, we may have some very difficult struggles with the idea of the family or may be uncomfortable with certain relationships within the family. And yet, our ability to recognize the short comings we find in our families comes from our ability to recognize that there is something that a family ought to be. And in all the little stories we have of the Holy Family, we find in them a model for the love to which we are called: a model of the obedience and sacrifice that belongs not just to our own families, but to the whole family of the Church.

I often talk about this obedience with your children in the confessional. Jesus Christ is not obedient to his parents because they are greater than him (he's God) – he is obedient because they are his parents. It's not about power or ontological superiority. Parents, it's not because you've somehow earned that honor and obedience. Rather, it's about love and the proper ordering of the family that allows each to flourish.

That proper ordering of the family is made manifest in the Holy Family. As we celebrate this most joyous season, may we strengthen our families in the obedience and love the Holy Family reveals and may we be gathered all the more in that communion of knowledge and love that is our eternal family in the Church.

In Christ, through Mary,

Fr. Dominic David Maichrowicz, OP