

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

My Dear Family,

Faith and love are the foundation of every home. As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, we reflect on Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, especially in their experiences of hardship, exile, and vulnerability. Their flight into Egypt reminds us of the millions today who flee hunger, war, and danger, often encountering rejection and exploitation.

Pope Francis speaks of the “hidden exiles” within our own homes: the elderly who are sidelined, the lonely who suffer behind closed doors, and those who feel abandoned or unseen. Their exile is a scandal in a society so rich in resources yet often poor in compassion. The Gospel calls us to comfort this reality and to act. Christ invites us to restore these individuals to the heart of our families, parishes, and communities. Where the forgotten are welcomed, the kingdom of God draws near.

The Holy Family models how we might live faithfully in our own homes, guiding us through joys and struggles. Families are not meant to be perfect, but to help one another grow in virtue, compassion, and faith. Love and forgiveness lie at the heart of this journey. By honoring each person’s God-given calling, we allow every family member to follow God’s plan—even when it requires sacrifice or letting go.

God is present in every human struggle and every hope for security and dignity. The simple life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in Nazareth encourages us to build homes marked by love, forgiveness, and mutual support. Simple words “may I,” “thank you,” and “sorry” can bring peace and joy into family life.

Families also have a vital role in the Church and society. The home is the first place where the Gospel is lived and shared. By dedicating time to prayer, Scripture, and quality moments together, we invite God into our homes. Just as Mary welcomed Jesus, we too can make our homes “domestic churches,” sanctuaries where God dwells.

Family life is a circle of strength. Parents make sacrifices out of love, and each member contributes to the good of the household and the wider community. Through patience, care, and love, our homes reflect God’s mercy. Family life is a school of love, teaching us how God loves unconditionally, patiently, and with forgiveness. Our imperfect families help us grow in holiness precisely because they challenge us to love more deeply.

Let us thank God for the gift of our families and recognize how they draw us closer to Him. May He bless every home with peace, strength, and unity. May our households be places where His love is welcomed, shared, and lived, drawing us closer together in faith and charity.

Blessings,

Fr. Vilaire Philius

