

Feast of Holy Family – Year C

I. Every day members of the clergy – Morning Prayer – Evening Prayer Office of Readings – BIEVARY

- Every day a different list of Psalms, Readings and Prayers
Every year, after Christmas, we have this series
12/26 – St. Steven, Martyr
12/27 – St. John, Apostle died in exile on Patmos
12/28 – Holy Innocents, Martyrs
12/29 – Thomas Becket, Martyr

What struck me this year was the Sacrifice of being Christian
St. Steven was 1st Deacon – Martyred for proclaiming the Gospel
Innocents died because of Jesus
Thos. Becket was murdered for his faith
John the Apostle was exiled to die on Patmos

SACRIFICE – So soon after Christmas
Today is the feast of the Holy Family –
St. Paul gives advice to families (Here in COL and in EPH5)
And he points out enough Sacrifice to go around for everybody in a family
Wives be subordinate to your husbands (as is proper in the Lord)
NOT be subservient - & only – as is proper in the Lord
Husbands – love your wives (as Christ loved the Church)
How did Christ love the Church - sacrifice
Children – obey your parents, for this is pleasing to the Lord
Kids, want to be pleasing to the Lord – obey (sacrifice)
Fathers – do not provoke your children, so they may not be discouraged
Discipline? Yup – but not to the point of discouragement
(MEN – we are in the list twice – that should tell you something)
How are we doing on getting our wives into heaven? Our children?

II. We are all one Holy Family – with God as our Father we are children of God

- As God's children, imagine the anxiety of God after the fall – our fall
 - o When we were lost – Adam, where are you? Hiding from Him.
 - o He wants to be with his Children
 - o SO - He enters covenant with **Abraham**
 - o He sends **Moses** and the **Prophets** - covenant with **David**
 - o Finally He sends **His Son**
 - o Jesus brings us back to His Father
 - o And NOW – redeemed
 - We are ALL Children of God, we are family

III. As family, we can be blind to the goodness in each other

- This feast invites us to 'be astonished' at goodness of each other
 - Its tough – so close – we see each others faults every day.
 - Mike at restaurant – (behave) *I knew how he acted – its all I saw.*
 - Spills his water – fear. *That wasn't what I wanted from Mike.*
 - So I spilled my water too *(then his brothers spill theirs)*
 - Funny family memory – you have yours –
 - Its rooted in my love for Mike
- Look around – see your Brothers and Sisters WE are family too
Just like I wanted Mike to know my love – despite the spill
Our heavenly Father wants us to His love – despite our sin
Gospel says Jesus grew in wisdom and grace - So can we

Because we were lost, but now we are found