

## HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY HOMILY YEAR C

1. Holy Family symbol of every family
  - a. Tension built into family relationships
  - b. Sometimes forget that family meant to introduce us to relationships
  - c. Goal of family life is that we recognize we are part of much larger family
2. St. John reminds us that as a result of Jesus birth, life, death and resurrection, God has adopted us as his children
  - a. World does not recognize us as God's children, full meaning not been revealed
  - b. When it is revealed we will be like Christ
  - c. Our families have purpose of preparing ourselves to live out image of Jesus
3. Question each family must ask, how will it best introduce each member to our loving God
  - a. One example is Hannah in first reading, willing to entrust her only son, Samuel to God in temple shortly after he has been weaned
    - i. I would imagine she would have maintained contact
    - ii. The reading does not go into that since it is more concerned with Samuel's development into becoming a great prophet
  - b. Gospel presents perhaps more common experience of tension
    - i. Jesus at 12 goes up to temple for first time with his parents
    - ii. Has come to recognize that God is His heavenly father
    - iii. Feels called to spend time in temple discussing His understanding of God with teachers in temple
  - c. Creates problem for Joseph and Mary
    - i. Worried about what had happened to him, how was he separated from the caravan
    - ii. three days looking for him, find him in midst of a group of teachers in the temple
    - iii. Jesus very typical of many young people in his response, youthful rebellion in order to discover who he truly was
    - iv. What were you worried about, I can take care of myself
      1. didn't you know I had to spend time in my Father's house
    - v. then Jesus apparently gives in to his parents, since he returns home obedient to his parents
4. Struggle for parents of Jesus how much room should they leave him to be independent and how much guidance and supervision do they need to offer
  - a. Sense of gospel is Jesus was testing them as well as himself
5. Gospel gives reassurance to families as they struggle with similar questions
  - a. Difficult to know the proper balance between freedom and supervision
  - b. As each family has to struggle to discern how best to help members of family, find reassurance that there is not a black and white answer
  - c. Each family simply has to look at what seems best for each member
  - d. Even Joseph and Mary had to struggle with Jesus
  - e. He grew up to become Savior of world
6. se as our families go through various tensions of living together, each simply must trust that God is guiding their decisions
  - a. through decisions and tensions of family life, we pray that each member will come to greater realization that they are children of God