

Dear sisters & brothers,

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. This feast comes right after Christmas, reminding us that the mystery of the Incarnation is not only about God becoming man, but also about God choosing to dwell in a family. The Son of God did not come into the world as a solitary figure, but into the warmth, struggles, and love of a household.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph knew what it meant to be displaced, to live in fear, to depend on the kindness of strangers and the hospitality of others. Their story is not far from the stories of countless families today who flee violence, poverty, or persecution. Think of it, soon after Jesus was born, they need to flee to Egypt in the middle of the night due to the murderous intent of the Judean King. Mary, Joseph and their newborn baby become refugees in a foreign land, living among people with a different culture, religion, ethnicity, and language, reliant on God and their new neighbors for food, shelter, and mercy.

This is not something they or anyone else choose lightly. But circumstances and political authorities left them no choice. As an adult, Jesus would tell his disciples that those who welcome stranger will inherit the kingdom of heaven. He knows of what he speaks. When he was an infant, he and his family were the strangers in need of welcome. These are the conditions that God chose to be born into.

May God be with us in this reality today. The Holy Family teaches us that God is present in the struggles of those who are uprooted. To welcome the stranger, to support the vulnerable, is to welcome Christ himself.

The Second Vatican Council calls the family the “domestic church.” It is in our homes that we first learn to pray, to forgive, to love, and to serve. Parents are the first teachers of faith, and children remind us of joy and hope. When we gather around the dinner table, when we pray together, when we support one another in sickness or struggle, we are living out the mission of the Church in miniature.

Children, honor your parents and elders, not only with words but with care and presence. Families are not perfect. We hurt one another. But forgiveness heals and strengthens bonds. Like Joseph, who obeyed God’s message in dreams, we are called to discern and act with courage. The Holy Family’s refugee experience calls us to open our hearts to those in need. Our homes, too, can be places where Christ is present in the way we welcome, forgive, and love.

The Feast of the Holy Family is not only about Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—it is about us. It is about seeing our families, with all their joys and struggles, as places where God dwells.

Let us ask the Holy Family to intercede for us: that our homes may be filled with faith, hope, and love, and that we may recognize Christ in one another.

“Lord Jesus, you chose to live in a family with Mary and Joseph. Bless our families with unity, patience, and love. May we honor one another and welcome those in need, so that our homes may reflect your presence in the world. Amen.”

As we step into the year 2026, I extend to each of you my heartfelt prayers and blessings. May this new year be a time of renewed faith, deeper hope, and abundant love.

- May the light of Christ guide your steps and brighten your days.
- May the peace of God dwell richly in your homes and families.
- May you find joy in service, strength in prayer, and comfort in His presence.
- May the Holy Spirit inspire us to grow together as a community of faith, united in charity and compassion.

Let us enter this year with gratitude for the blessings of the past and courage for the journey ahead. May 2026 be a year where we draw closer to God and to one another, living as witnesses of His love in the world.

With prayers and blessings,

Fr. Edmond