

Feast of the Holy Family

My beloved brothers and sisters, I think that most people have the idea that saints were extraordinary people doing extraordinary things- and yet, some of the greatest of the saints- St. Therese Liseaux, did nothing extraordinary in her entire short life- she lived only 25 years, and the Church has declared her to be a Doctor of the Church, one of the greatest teachers in the life of the Church.

In the same way, the queen of all of the Saints, never did anything spectacular in her lifetime- she never worked a single miracle; and yet, she is the Queen of Heaven and Earth, because she trusted in the promises of the Lord to her. In the same way, St. Joseph was a humble carpenter who was trusted with raising the Son of God; and yet, he was so holy that he knew it was God speaking to him in a mere dream, and he was immediately obedient to God, trusting in God's plan for him. Even though He is the Son of God, Jesus, lived the first thirty years of His life in obscurity, and was "obedient to His parents" in a humble little village, working side by side with His step father Joseph, as a carpenter and contractor. All of them lived out their lives in normal, humble conditions, living unglamorous lives, seeking the will of God at every turn of their lives, loving God and each other and their neighbor.

Our Divine Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, chose this humble and obscure life making Himself obedient to Mary and Joseph, praying the daily prayers of Judaism, going to the Synagogue on Sabbath, doing His daily chores, and as the Gospel today tells us, learning the Word of God and the Jewish Faith, even though He was the One who gave Judaism its faith. What does this tell us? By His self-chosen life, Jesus teaches us the normal means to greatest holiness:

Everything He did in this earthly life, was for us, for our redemption and for our instruction. Jesus, Mary, Joseph, St. Therese, in fact, all of the saints, teach us that to be a saint begins with the faithful fulfillment of our normal responsibilities, and most especially within the normal duties of our Family Life. St. Therese de Liseaux summarized it best: "Do whatever you have to do next with great love for God and for your neighbor, and you will be a great saint!" To be great human

beings, Jesus, Mary and Joseph teach us, means to be great lovers of God and each other, and you will be a great saint.

First and foremost, to be a great, holy family, and to become great saints, place all of your faith, hope and trust in God's Divine Promises to us, and do your very best to live them out in your families. Pray the Rosary every day! Mary has promised that those who do so will mount from height to height in holiness. Wear the brown Scapular with devotion, and she will clothe you with her own mantle. Love, God with your whole heart mind and soul. Go to Confession at least once a month. Go to Mass and receive the Holy Eucharist with great devotion and love. Love each other as God's supreme gifts to you. Do these things, and God will make you and your family, a Holy Family!