



## The Family Is Holy

Why is the Holy Family used as a model of the “perfect family”? It’s not because both Jesus and Mary never sinned, or because the Living God was present. The Holy Family is called holy and perfect, because they were a family who knew how to be a family.

**Within the family is found all hope for humanity.**

No family is ever perfect or normal. Families are un-conventional by nature; to try to set up a standard of Mother, Father and child, is to limit the uniqueness of each person, it limits the moment of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Family is anything but conventional - A teenager who conceives a child through God and not her future husband, and as Pope Francis would say “highly scandalous”. Jesus was born in a barn, and the family had to flee a ruler who was out to kill their Son. Mary and Joseph lost Jesus in the temple, or was it a mix of Jesus wondering off and Mary and Joseph not paying enough attention? And to know that some day your child would have to give His life and die to save the world is hardly your average family...

**Embrace one another with unrestrained love, desiring to grow as one body in Christ.**

But this is why we revere the Holy Family so much; they didn’t have the picture perfect house; they didn’t have the latest fashion, or the high class social status. They were humble and they were close to one another. They lived as a family; they worked together and loved one another without judgment and with sincerity.

**“Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another... And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful.” Colossians 3: 12-15**

A family is made up of people who love one another sincerely, who give without expecting in return. A family is people who depend on each other and support each other through thick and thin. They are present to the needs of one another and listen with full attention. A family is found where love exists, in the unity and solidarity of all peoples. We have individual “families” households, but we are all a part of God’s family.

**“...without this sense of belonging we cannot understand our deepest identity.”  
Pope Francis - *Evangelii Gaudium* 268**

*Holy Family,  
let the example of Your love shine forth into our midst.  
Let it penetrate the very fabric of our lives.  
May it infiltrate every aspect of society,  
bringing greater love into our hearts.  
Grant that I may be ever present to the family of God,  
serving all with humility and love.  
Amen.*

