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The Model of the Holy Family

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Today, as we celebrate The Holy Family, it is important to consider what it is to be a family. The family is the basic unit of both society and the Church. In the family, we first learn how to communicate and how to tell good from bad. In the

family, we learn what love is and how to forgive and to be forgiven. In the family, we learn about God and Jesus and Our Lady. In the family, we learn to value ourselves and how to value everything else. Our family forms us. We all

come through the family. Secular society sometimes seems bent on destroying the family. But if the family is destroyed, the world will crumble because all humanity comes through the family.

So we need to ask whether our families are fulfilling God's plan. We want our families to be the best possible families for our children so that they may get the

best possible start in life. So, it is important to reflect on how our families fulfill God's plan, because the family in which we grow up influences us for the rest of our lives. When families reflect God's plan they are mighty. What is God's plan for the family? We need to discover what God has revealed to us about His plan for the family. In St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we read that husbands

are to love their wives as much as Christ loved the Church! How much did Jesus love the Church? He loved the Church so much that He died for the Church! The

letter goes on to say something beautiful, it says the love of a husband and wife for each other is a reflection of the love of Christ for the Church.

What else do we know about God's plan for the family? What about parents and children? The same letter to the Ephesians says that children should be obedient to their parents. Then the letter goes on to say that parents should never drive their children into resentment. In short, if our families are to reflect God's plan, they will be families that put God first.

So, do we make family time to be together? Do we pray together as a family? If faith in God is not what motivates a family, that family is starting with a disadvantage. Jesus did not fall out of heaven as a fully grown adult. Jesus came as a member of a family—The Holy Family of Nazareth.

God chose a family to show us how all families are to find their way to Him. What a mystery of God's love and grace families are! The vocation of families is to show God - to let God's light shine through. St. Pope John Paul II made it clear that the vocation of the family is to be a sign of God's love, when he said:

Family, believe in what you are;
believe in your vocation to be a
luminous sign of God's love.
...Family, be for the people of our
time a “sanctuary of life.” Christian
family, be a “domestic church,”
faithful to your evangelical
vocation.

Deacon John
