



Reflection from Ben Babaran

The family remains the natural cradle of human life. In the family, life is given, received, lived and enjoyed in love. In the family, life actualizes its true meaning. Coming to us in our nature, God also affirmed and blessed this fount of life by willing that His Eternal Son be born in a true human family of Mary and Joseph, thus the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The Holy Family was truly a human family confronted by the tensions of life and with certain periods of worry and uncertainties which were recaptured in the words of Mary to Jesus “My Child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you?”

In a similar manner, we were separated from our families last year due to the pandemic. But the Babaran family placed ourselves and plans in God’s hands in the same way the Holy Family did when they escaped Herod’s cruelty. Despite missing family members especially those from the Philippines, our family’s plan to celebrate the marriage of Angela Babaran and Miguel Francisco came to fruition. Thus, Jo and I gained another son in Miguel and through Miguel, the Francisco family became a part of ours. Furthermore, those present in the wedding, in-person or virtually, friends and relatives, special mention to the one who blessed their marriage, Fr. Mike Roach and all the well-wishers are now considered members of our family. The love, forgiveness, kindness, patience and other virtues that began at home have all grown and expanded. The practice of loving each other at home trains us to love God, our neighbors and other families. We bring that love from our family to love and serve a larger family, the Body of Christ.

These days, our families are in a certain period of worry and uncertainty again with the new Covid variant, Omicron. Our disharmony in the fight against the virus makes us all vulnerable. May we look at the Holy Family where the members lived in harmony. Living in harmony means recognizing that we are different and understanding that we are human and limited and sinful and looking for a way to move forward in our moments of crisis and difficulties. It is the interpersonal acceptance of one another and exercising the virtue of tolerance that are integral parts of life in the family.

“Holy Family of Nazareth, make our family one with you. Help us to be instruments of peace. Grant that love, strengthened by grace, may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. May we always have God at the center of our hearts and homes until we are all one family, happy and at peace in our true home with you. Amen.”

~ Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ben