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Dear Parents,

To relate the Holy Family to every family.

Mary and Joseph also struggled in dealing with the parent/child relationship.

“When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, ‘Son, why have you doen this to me?’” Probably every mother and father in human history has said those or similar words!

The Holy Family is a real family like ours – and like so many others.

- In his family, Jesus would have learned all of the things that Sirach described as part of a real holy family: honoring a father, accepting a mother’s authority, praying for e everyone in a family – plus obedience, consideration and kindness.
- In his family, Jesus would have come to know all of the things that Paul would later write about to the Colossians: heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. He told them to bear with one another, forgive one another, and put on love, the bond of perfection.
- Real families, families that are becoming holy families, need to learn to do these things and have them as part of their lives.

Some families have the resources needed to deal with teir challenges. Others struggle. The Eucharist, our shared meal around our shared table, is the greatest sign of family, no matter who is in it and where they are, can grow into a better family, made holy by love.

Fr. Peter