



*From the Desk of Father Peter*

## *The Holy Family is Our Family*

*It seems natural for us to focus our attention on the Holy Family of Nazareth during the Christmas Season. After all, Christmas is a family celebration.*



*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph are projected before us so that we can recommit ourselves to the act of living within the family circle. To live family life well is neither automatic nor easy. It requires effort and practice; it is an art. The teaching of the Church clearly affirms that the family is the basic cell of both the Church and society. This day then, we find ourselves invited by the Word of God to recommit ourselves to the art of Christian family life but we cannot do that realistically if our understanding of the Holy Family or of our own family is unreal. We run the risk of romanticizing the Holy Family of Nazareth. We forget they lived human life as we do. Jesus, the Son of God, was born into a family. We see him as a baby in the crib but we must not forget that as he grew, he passed through all the stages from infancy through childhood and adolescence into adulthood. Joseph is the model for husband, fathers and workers. He was a just man, a holy man but we should not forget that he experienced the reality of work as a carpenter; blisters on his hands, aching muscles, long days and fatigue. He loved his family and wanted to provide for them, but it*

*was not always easy to do so. And Mary—yes, she was a reflective and prayerful person, full of grace but as a wife to Joseph and mother of Jesus, she faced the same basic routine chores that wives and mothers experience in every age and generation. The Holy Family is a model of Christian family life for us. They loved each other well, but they did not always understand one another. Tension, anxiety, lack of complete understanding, coupled with trust in God, loyalty and respect were all part of the Holy Family's life. These are a part of our family life too. If we are to recommit ourselves to the art of Christian family life, we must fashion a realistic and holy attitude towards Christian family life; the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. We can blend prayer, relationship to God, respect in the way we look at each other, and loyalty into our family life and stick by each other no matter what. Yes, it's the Christmas Season, a family time. It is good that God turns our thoughts this week to the art of Christian family life by pointing to the Holy Family of Nazareth and inviting us to model our family life after theirs in prayer, respect and loyalty. Our family may not be a perfect one but it will be well-lived because it will be rooted in Christian realism and holiness.*



*Wishing each of you a Holy, Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!*

*Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*