

FEAST OF THE SACRED FAMILY. DECEMBER 26, 2021

# GOSPEL ECO

Catequese Ecosocial desde o Evanxeo do Domingo



## CONTEXT



Español, Gallego, Inglés,  
Francés, Italiano, Portugués.



**What meaning do I give to have a house and a family?  
Do I have a sense of belonging to my home and to my family?  
Do I feel co-responsible for their care?**

The expressions "home" and "family" are sometimes used synonymously, although we also make differences. When we say family, generally speaking we refer to those who live in the same house or those who share the same roof. The house can be a family if in that shared place where the interpersonal relationship is favored and unbreakable bonds of love and mutual commitment are built.

## GOSPEL

### Lk 2, 41-52

Every year his parents used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When the days of the feast were over and they set off home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without His parents knowing it. They assumed He was somewhere in the party, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for Him among their relatives and friends.

When they failed to find Him, they went back to Jerusalem looking for Him everywhere. It happened that, three days later, they found Him in the Temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard Him were astounded at His intelligence and His replies. They were overcome when they saw Him, and His mother said to Him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for You.' He replied, 'Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?' But they did not understand what He meant.

He went down with them then and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with people.

**"RESPECTING AND CARING FOR THE COMMON HOME IS A NEW WAY OF LOVING GOD"**



## REFLECTION

With His incarnation, the Son of God enters in our house and integrates in our family. Certainly Jesus, together with his parents, had his family, and there he undoubtedly learned the broad meaning of universal family. The family of Nazareth is the model of all families, not because they might not have difficulties, but because, according to what the Gospel tells us, they lived united with the bond of love and deep faith in God of each one, expressed in the affectionate interpersonal relationship and respect to each other. Looking at the Sacred Family of Nazareth we can give a new meaning and value for our home-family. It is in the family where we were born, grew up and became adults until we formed our own family. That's where we learned life's fundamental lessons about freedom, love, happiness, and success. And all of this is a gift that we must be grateful for and protect.

The feast of the Sacred Family also invites us to reflect on "the Common Home" that houses us and all living beings, as expressed in the encyclical *Laudato Si* [LS]: "being created by the same Father, all beings in the universe are united through invisible ties and we form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion that moves us to a sacred, loving and humble respect" (LS 89). Adam and Eve's house was the Garden of Eden. That was the first great house and home of all. This garden was the common house, the place of happiness and interrelation between all created living beings. "Cultivate and take care of the land" (Gn 2:15) is the first mandate God gave to man for the well-being of all who are in the universal family.

As Christians we are called to recognize that we have a common inherited home. It is planet Earth. Our extended family is God's Creation, to which we owe respect and care, as the very subtitle of the encyclical *Laudato Si* says: on caring for our common home. And it is in the family where the first behaviors of love and care of life are educated, such as the correct use of things, order and cleanliness, respect for the local ecosystem and the protection of all created beings (Cfr. LS 213).

## COMMITMENT

We can review our willingness to care for and protect our family home, starting with the external aspect. This also has to do with discipline and personality, which favors our healthy relationships at home. We can support ourselves with the following questions, some focused on the house of our personal family and another related to our common home, the Earth: Do I take great care of it? Do I take the time to clean it? Do I embellish it with details?

**What do I want to do to improve your care?**

## PRAYER

Oh, Infant Jesus, you grew up in your family at Nazareth, bless our insignificant weak family. Help us find the hidden treasure in each member of our families. Remind us that Creation is the Father's gift (LS 220), it is our extended family. Help us take care of it.