

Sunday 10 June 2018
"Gazing around Him at those seated in the circle"

Reading 1: Gen 3: 9-15

Responsorial Psalm : Psalm 129:1- 8

Reading 2: 2 Cor 4: 13-5:1

Gospel Reading : Mark 3:20-35

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Jesus came home with his disciples. Again the crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat. When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind. "The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul,"and "By the prince of demons he drives out demons. "Summoning them, he began to speak to them in parables, "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand; that is the end of him. But no one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder the house. Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an everlasting sin. "For they had said, "He has an unclean spirit. "His mother and his brothers arrived. Standing outside they sent word to him and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you. "But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and my brothers? "And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

Meditation

Jesus came to earth as a Man, and His experience of family was the love flowing through the Holy Family (Lk 2:39-40) and, later, through His relatives (Mk 3:31-32). Jesus has an unimaginably rich family history.

Today's Gospel presents an abrupt diversion from Jesus' family experience. Jesus gazes at the crowd seated in the circle around Him (Mk 3:34). These people are "hanging on His words" (Lk 19:48). They seek wisdom, healing, or words of direction from One greater than they (Lk 11:31-32). Suddenly the Master is interrupted by a summons from His family. The people in the crowd immediately realize that their time with Jesus is up. They naturally assume Jesus must attend to family matters and mentally prepare to return home, not knowing if they will ever see Him again. Imagine the look on their faces as Jesus gazes lovingly at them and tells them they are His family, because they are doing the will of God (Mk 3:34-35). Imagine the joy of Jesus in sharing with them the never-ending love that flows in His family. At Baptism, you were begotten from above (Jn 3:3), given a new nature, and adopted into the family of God. You are no longer strangers; you are included in the best family ever. Live your Baptism. Do God's will. Live in His family love (Jn 15:10).

Questions for Community sharing:

1. What place and what influence does the community have in my way of living the faith?
2. Today, in the large city, overcrowding promotes individualism which is at odds with life in community, what am I doing to counter act this situation?
3. Why is Spiritual unity in families vital for resisting temptation and the attacks of the evil one

Holy Father, Holy Jesus, and Holy Spirit, may I bear much fruit for You (Jn 15:8) and lead many thousands into our family.

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