

Today, we remember the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Many years ago, when I was a Salesian seminarian, I lived with about twenty abandoned children for a year. My role was an uncle for them. A senior priest told me, "A child who was hurt by the family should be healed by the family." Even though all the children were from different families, I tried to make a family and a home for them. Frankly speaking, I wasn't a good uncle for them. I loved them. But I think I gave them a conditional love. I always wanted them to come to me. But I didn't go to them.

One day, I scolded a boy who brought back lunch box without touching anything for many times. Later, I found out the reason from others. For all the boys of this house, they had a secret. Their friends of the school shouldn't know that they are living together in a house. They felt shame that their family looked different. They didn't have father and mother. They didn't want their friends to know about their parents. Now there was a problem. They had same lunch boxes. Usually a student carries one's own lunch box which was made by one's own mom. For children, to have same lunch box with another meant they were living together. It was a small matter to others. But it was a big matter for them. I didn't have the same eyes with theirs.

If I have one more chance to live with them, I want to listen carefully to each of them. St. John Bosco said, "It's not enough to love the children, they must know that they are loved."

I believe that it applies to all the families. It's not enough to love one another. The wife, the husband, and the children must know that they are loved. The Holy family loved each other and each one knew that they are loved. The key of the love of the Holy Family is the love for God. Any family in which everyone loves God can make the Holy Family. As they listen to God, they listen to each other. God is with them all the times.

Fr. James