



# STS. JOACHIM & ANNE

PARENTS OF MARY—JULY 26

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today, as we gather during Ordinary Time, we pause to celebrate an extraordinary mystery - the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the grandparents of Our Lord Jesus Christ. This feast, marked each year on July 26, is a revelation of the hidden ways in which God acts through history, through families, through generations - which calls us to rediscover our baptism and the transmission of faith within the domestic Church.

Who were Joachim and Anne? Scripture is silent, but the ancient apocryphal texts - especially the Protoevangelium of James - speak of their deep longing for a child and their trust in God's mercy. They lived in a time of barrenness - not only in the womb, but in the wider world. Israel awaited the Messiah, but centuries had passed. Their story reminds us: salvation enters through hidden cracks. Through obscurity. Through faithfulness in suffering. Where is God acting in your life? Not in the powerful. Not in the visible. God acts in the small, the weak, the forgotten. Joachim and Anne lived it. By welcoming Mary, by raising her in the law and the promises, they became the soil from which the Word would take flesh.

They did not give Mary a theology textbook. They gave her their life. Their prayer. Their reverence for the Temple, their love for the Scriptures, their openness to mystery. This calls us, today, to examine the transmission of faith in our own families. Many young people grow up without knowing the joy of belonging to the People of God. There is a rupture. But this feast tells us it is not too late. The Lord can re-establish communion. He does this not by strategies, but through conversion. Through the family rediscovering its vocation: to be a small Nazareth, a place where love is born and where the resurrection is announced by lives changed.

This feast is marked with gatherings of families, songs from the psalmody, and the retelling of family stories. Not nostalgia, but proclamation. In the grandparents, we see signs of fidelity - of prayer through years of suffering. In the children, signs of new creation. In those who had no faith, we see a miracle: that the Church lives in the transmission of what is received - not earned, but gifted.

Let this feast be a renewal for our parish. Grandparents, you are not obsolete. You are irreplaceable. **Mothers and fathers, do not be afraid of your failures.** The Lord can act even through your wounds. **And young people, do not close your hearts.** God can begin something new - through you, and even through the story of your family. Pray for those estranged from their children. Pray for our grandparents - may they proclaim Christ to new generations. **Pray that our parish may be a place of transmission, a living school of faith.** Let us rediscover our baptism, rediscover our identity as sons and daughters. This feast is a light on the path - a call to see that salvation is always arriving, not in grand gestures, but in small homes where the Gospel is whispered, lived, handed on.

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Sts. Joachim and Anne, pray for us!

Peace,