

Homily - The Memorial of Ss. Joachim & Anne

Rev. Peter G. Jankowski

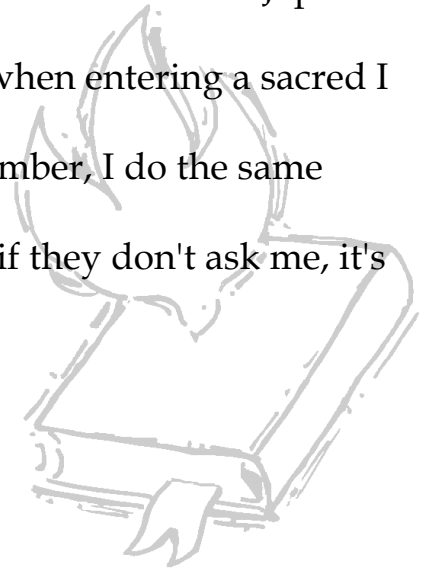
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Ex 32: 15-24, 30-34

Ps 106: 19-20, 21-22, 23

Mt 13: 31-35

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome. My cloud offers size 14. I call these clown shoes. My family tells me that these shoes are getting old and they want to buy me shoes for my birthday or my 25th or whatever it might be. They keep asking me what I want for my birthday. And I said, 10 hours of sleep after St. Anne's day, I'll need 10 hours of sleep and about three hours in the bathroom. But I was thinking about the shoes because normally when I'm celebrating this mass, I'm usually shoeless. I usually, uh, take the shoes off and get comfortable so that I can do what's right. And hopefully what's holy in God's name for the sake of all of you. I keep reminding myself that my friends from India and Japan and China would often tell me that the faithful when entering a sacred I think that when I enter the house of a family member, I do the same thing. I'm asked to take off my shoes. And even if they don't ask me, it's



a sign of respect, not to soil their carpet, not to do anything bad to their floor, but it's a sign of respect to show them that I care. I think that's a good sign. I think it's a sign that I was taught by my family, my parents, my grandparents, to be respectful, to be courteous, to be humble. It's important for me to do because it reminds me of the lessons that I have been taught by my family, the idea of family, teaching me these lessons, teaching me respect. You know, I was once in Thailand at a Buddhist temple. And when people don't dress appropriately coming into their worship space, they make you wear the smelliest unwashed sweats that they could find.

And the grumpiest stinky shoes that they could find. And they make you aware of those things to show you how to be more respectful. To me, that's important. It's important for me to be respectful and be kind and be loving to the people I am permitted to serve. I thought of that because with my own grandmother, uh, she was the matriarch and probably the smartest person in the entire family. Not just because she was world weary, but because she had common sense and she was able to sit and talk and share her experiences with you, but share her love as

well to tell you that she wanted to be there to sit and to talk. Now I celebrate masses in Spanish and Saint Anna is a French Canadian community, but I have to share with you a reflection about my own grandmother that was offered by my cousin in Naples, Italy named peanut Cosenza, uh, juice sappy.

I celebrated the wedding. Massingir set in Beth VJ in the 1990s and I an opportunity a couple of years ago to visit them and their grownup daughters back in Naples on a trip that I had taken, I had asked some years ago for peanut, for Giuseppe bay to write a reflection about his grandmother and what she meant to him. And I thought it was wonderful. I'm going to try to read this in Italian. The, my Italian is absolutely horrible, but I'd like to read this in Italian and

For the last couple of years, I was talking about the importance of family life with my cousin Pino Cosenza from Naples, Italy. We were talking about how important our families are to us and how our parents and grandparents set the tone concerning the way we treat our own friends. So in honor of my own grandmother, who we honor today, I asked Pino to write in Italian the importance that families play in our lives. This is what Pino and I wrote together...

Se tu vuoi trovare dio, tu puoi trovarlo nella tua famiglia. Quando vuoi celebrare qualcosa di importante nella vita, chiami la tua famiglia. Quando vuoi sentirti tranquillo e protetto, tu puoi andare dalla tua famiglia. E se hai problemi nella tua vita e non puoi chiedere a nessun

altro aiuto, tu puoi rivolgerti alle persone che ti amano di più. Da 90 anni, nana è il centro di questa famiglia, l'amore che ha tenuto insieme questa famiglia. Quando tu trovi qualcuno che ama e perdona come nana ha fatto con tutti noi tu cominci a vedere qualcosa di speciale, tu cominci a vedere dio. Nana ci ha insegnato grandi lezioni di vita come amare e perdonare come cristo ci ha insegnato a fare lo stesso gli uni con gli altri.

If you want to find Christ, you can find him in your family. When you want to celebrate something important in life, you call your family. When you want to feel safe and secure, you can go to your family. And if you have problems in your life and cannot ask anyone else for help, you can turn to the people that love you the most.

For 90 years, nana has been the center of this family, the love that has kept this family together. When you find someone who is as loving and forgiving like nana has been to all of us, you begin to see something special. You begin to see God. Nana has taught us great lessons in life. She has taught us how to love and forgive. And like Christ, she teaches us to do the same for each other.

If you pay close enough attention to the parents and grandparents of your family who set the example of love, you start to realize that their job is not to cast stones at us but to embrace us. They do not judge us but they rather serve us. We learn that if we understand what it means to love and forgive, it is then we see the face of God and remember why we celebrate Lent in the first place.

You want to find Christ. You can find him in your family. You can find him in your grandparents. You can find him in your mother. That's important to me because if you want to see Christ, all you have to do is see the examples of love that inspired him in his life, his mother, his grandmother, the people in his family, a carpenter father who taught

him the gifts of the trade and taking those gifts and taking that love and that protection and going out into the world to preach the gospel message. We don't have Christ without his mother. We don't have his mother without his grandmother. That is why St. Anne is so important on this particular day. To remember that grandmother grandfather set the example by which the children and grandchildren would live very much appreciative to all the folks who have come to join us at the St. Anne novena during the nine days, then on the 26th, please know that our family prays for your family because all of us are family together, brothers and sisters in the Lord, but we can take off our shoes, let down our hair, share our stories and know that we are loved. If we learned that lesson, if we learned the gift of, and familyhood, and we truly understand what this meeting is for the feast of St. Anne, the patroness of this parish, and God bless you, that you continue to offer that love to the people that you meet is I do the same for you and all those that I meet, God bless all of you. This is our prayer.