

**Dear Friends & Families in Christ Jesus,**

I would like to share with you all one of my Mission Trip exacting experience with our Young Neighbors in Action (YNIA) children on the way to Oakland, California. We had begun our journey at 7:30 am (07. 06. 2019, Saturday) from St. Anthony church, having lots of fun on the way. It was 3:00 pm when I thought of **DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET**. I didn't want to tell the children what to do. I just wanted to observe them, and what would be their reaction. To my surprise, they themselves without my reminder, started to recite by 3:15 pm, in all the rest of the days of our stay in Oakland. They all had Divine Mercy Chaplet without fail on their free time, which for me was an amazing activity for our children. I really thank all the children and their parents.

**The Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne is the Feast of Grandparents**

It reminds grandparents of their responsibility to establish a tone for generations to come: They must make the traditions live and offer them as a promise to little children. But the feast has a message for the younger generation, as well. It reminds the young that older people's greater perspective, depth of experience, and appreciation of life's profound rhythms are all part of a wisdom not to be taken lightly or ignored.

This feast day is July 26, Western and July 25, Eastern. Neither Joachim nor Anne is mentioned in the Scripture. The 2nd century non-canonical Gospel of James tells the story of the birth of Mary in a way that has some resemblances with the story of the birth of Samuel (1 Kings 1), whose mother, Hannah, had also been childless. According to this story, Anne and her husband Joachim, after years of childlessness, were visited by an angel who told them that they would conceive a child. Anne promises to dedicate the child to God's service.

The 3rd-century-AD *Evangelium de nativitate Mariae* (Gospel of the Nativity of Mary), according to these sources, Anne (Hebrew: Hannah) was born in Bethlehem, Judaea. She married Joachim, and, although they shared a wealthy and devout life at Nazareth, they eventually lamented their childlessness. Joachim, reproached at the Temple for his sterility, retreated into the countryside to pray, while Anne, grieved by his disappearance and by her barrenness, solemnly promised God that, if given a child, she would dedicate it to the Lord's service. Both received the vision of an angel, who announced that Anne would conceive and bear a most wondrous child. The couple rejoiced at the birth of their daughter, whom Anne named Mary. When the child was three years old, Joachim and Anne, in fulfillment of her divine promise, brought Mary to the Temple at Jerusalem, where they left her to be brought up. This event became so important in church doctrine that by 1585 Pope Sixtus included it in the Western church calendar the liturgical feast of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary (November 21). Although this festival originated early in the East, probably at Jerusalem in 543, its first Western observance was recorded in England in the 11th century.

I humbly request all families to have a practice of family rosary. May the intercessions of our loving mother be with you all and in all your daily undertakings.

In Christ,



**Fr. Xavier Bazil**  
*Parochial Vicar*