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**Model Families:** Do you know a family or families that are exemplary in their faith and charity in your parish or community? It is time for you to nominate them as Model Families of 2019! The Adult Faith Formation Commission is looking for nominations for model families. Write a short biography of the family and tell us why the family is a model of faith and charity. Please indicate the parish or town of the family. Ask the permission of the family you are nominating. When you have obtained the consent of the family, submit a copy of the short biography to [adultfaith@padiocese.ca](mailto:adultfaith@padiocese.ca)

Invite the family to attend the **Gospel Jamborees, either in Prince Albert on October 12 2018 at St. Joseph Parish, or in North Battleford on October 13 2018 at St. Joseph Calasantius.** A committee will choose 6 families as “Model Families of 2019,” and they will be recognized in the **Family Conference in 2019** (More information TBA). Rewards will be given to the families, and to the ones who nominated them.

**Pastoral Centre Resources:** (1) *The Bible on Faith* by Heijke, S.J.; (2) *Catholicism: Faith Clips* (DVD) by Bishop R. E. Barron; (3) *Cornerstones of Faith: Reconciliation, Eucharist and Stewardship* by Thomas Cardinal Collins; (4) *The Acts of the Apostles* (CD) by Sr. Laurie Brink; (5) *The Gospel of Luke* (CD) by Sr. Barbara Reid, OP

**Suggested Materials:** (1) *The Fear of the Lord is Wisdom* by Tremper Longman III; (2) *The World of the New Testament* by J. B. Green & L. M. McDonald; (3) *Old Testament Law for Christians* by R. E. Gane; (4) *Mother Teresa* (DVD) by Ignatius Press; (5) *The Bible in a Disenchanted Age: The Enduring Possibility of Christian Faith* by R. W. L. Moberly; (6) *Lectio: Eucharist* (DVD); (7) *Introducing the Apocrypha: Message, Context, and Significance* by David A. deSilva; (8) *Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction* by J. T. Carroll  
**For more resources:** [padiocese.sk.ca](http://padiocese.sk.ca) or [bmjsajonas.com](http://bmjsajonas.com)

#### **Next issue's contents:**

For wherever your treasure is, there will your heart be too (Mt 6,19-21); Getting to know a patron saint of our diocese; Bible Study, Resources for faith formation, and much more...

#### **Editors:**

Sr. Mariette Bilodeau (SK, Canada), Dr. Matthew Allen Newland, PhD (QC, Canada), Fr. Millan Sajonas (SK, Canada), and Very Rev. Maurice Fiolleau.

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

### Diocese of Prince Albert

IMDVS June 2018

#### **The Flight to Egypt and Its Teachings (Mt 2:13-15)**

by Fr. Bernabe Millan Sajonas

The infancy narratives of Matthew's gospel spring from his theological reflections about God's faithfulness, and Jesus as the Messiah. Matthew uses stories that resemble past events in Israel's history, or which echo scriptural passages. As recipients of the stories, we are fortunate and blessed to receive the treasures of the Christian traditions, and the teachings embedded in them. These teachings and traditions, handed down to us, aim to bear intellectual fruits applicable in the task of knowing our Christian traditions. They also seek to provide a better understanding of our faith, and most importantly produce spiritual fruits. From among these fruits, they help us to grow in holiness through observable lifestyles.

One of the infancy narratives of Matthew is the flight to Egypt of Joseph, Mary and Jesus, found in Mt 2:13-15. Reading the passage, we have some questions. What is the evangelist's reason for including this narrative in the introductory section of his gospel? What are the methods that he used in this passage? What are Matthew's teachings the tradition of the flight to Egypt?

With this example, Matthew utilizes Israel's history and Scripture to catechise. Interweaving a complex memorial of important moments in Israel's history into the tradition of the flight to Egypt, Matthew endeavours to answer the questions of his community regarding this tradition about Jesus. He may also intend to refute the attacks and false doctrines of his opponents concerning Jesus' birth, identity, and origin surrounded the tradition. Works of scholars abound to explain the purpose of Matthew in 2:13-15.

Based on Matthew's use of the history of Israel and Scripture, Matthew asserts that Jesus is the climax of Israel's history (extending it to the history of the salvation of humanity) and the fulfillment of God's promise as spoken by the prophets and indicated in Scripture. In the process, Jesus' Divine and human natures are exposed. Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, who saves His people, but also human through His birth to a virgin. In the aim of elaborating these general theological propositions, Matthew conceivably was trying to reply to the inquiries surrounding the life of Jesus; his birth in Bethlehem, why Jesus went to Egypt, why Jesus settled in Nazareth, the virginal birth of Jesus, the admirable virtues of Mary and Joseph, the mission to other nations, and legitimation of Jesus as the Messiah through the adoption of Joseph. These are all important in establishing Jesus' identity and beginnings. Moreover, Matthew through the use of history and Scripture skillfully recalled and made his audience aware (perhaps themselves familiar) of the Old Testament stories, like the stories of Moses, Jacob and his sons' journey, and the story of the Exodus from Egypt. Perhaps, he was even trying to unify the early Christian community, (Continued in Page 2)



(Continued from Page 1) composed of converted Jews and gentiles, especially with the growing numbers of converts from other nations.

At the end, the brief passage of the flight to Egypt manifests the ingenuity of the evangelist Matthew, his brilliant innovation to bring together the past (Israel's history and Scripture) and the new (traditions about Jesus' life and ministry) by collecting, ordering and editing his sources. He utilized his sources (Mark, *Q*, Pre-Matthean material) to present his ideas drawing from the richness of these sources, adding to the traditions and teachings about Jesus. He even explained the growth of the early Church in connection with the mission, transforming the beautiful expressions of his theological claims into stories.

Since Mt 2:13-15 is in the introductory section, perhaps it also serves as an overview of some of the concepts that Matthew elaborates in the later parts of his gospel. There are five themes that the author observes: Divine Sonship/Divine Origin (verse 15), that the Messiah of God would come from God and line of David through the legitimate adoption of Joseph (verse 14), mission to the gentiles (verse 13), His rejection (verse 13), and suffering (verse 13).

The reading of the text, as mentioned, should produce not only knowledge about our faith and tradition but should also motivate spiritual growth. The practical application of the teachings should be made visible in the reading. In reflecting on Mt 2:13-15, we believe that God directs history and events in the world. There will always be some "Herods" who will seek to both destroy goodness and truth. Decisions are to be made whether we will protect the truth, do good, go with the flow or do the worse and contradict the truth and goodness. Herod heard the good news but rejected it, and decided to act against it. We must take care and keep guard of our thoughts, and actions so that we may not displease God. We put our trust and confidence in Him, realizing that even in the most difficult situations, God will be there for us, to inspire and guide us. Like Joseph, we just have to obey God's Will, be His instruments, and to discern the truth and goodness in every situation presented before us. God always wants what is beneficial for us. The stakes are high because what is laid before us is eternal salvation. Joseph demonstrated to us how to obey God, by being alert and ready to do God's commands.

#### Questions for Reflection

1. What is your understanding of Divine Providence and Divine Will?
2. What is grace? What is temptation?
3. How is your human will being influenced by grace or temptation?
4. How do you discern God's Will in your life?
5. Have you felt God giving you a mission or direction? How did you act on it?
6. Can you give a circumstance where you had to make a decision for good or truth?
7. Did you encounter difficulty in doing the good or the truth? How did you approach it?

**Read:** Mark 16,1-20 The Empty Tomb. The Angel's Message

1. Read the passage 3 times.
2. Look for a commentary on the passage. Go to Adult Faith Formation Website for resources.
3. Meditate on the relevance of the passage today.
4. Reflect on its impact for you.
5. After your reflection, pray spontaneously.
6. Contemplate silently.
7. Play a song related to the passage.

#### Getting to know...St. Rose of Lima

St. Rose of Lima was born in 1586 and her real name was Isabel Flores de Olivia. She was named "Rose" because of her exceptional beauty. At a young age, Rose wanted to become a nun. She devoted herself to prayer, and fasting. She also imposed upon herself severe penances. She spent time in adoration and received daily communion.

Her beauty attracted a lot of suitors so to deter them she would make herself unattractive. Rose's parents did not approve to her plan to become a nun. However, she was determined to take a vow of chastity. Eventually, her parents allowed her to be by herself in her own room. There, she prayed long hours and followed a severe regiment of fasting, and abstinence.

At the age of 20, she joined the Third Order of St. Dominic where she continued a life dedicated to prayer, fasting and penance. She took to wearing a silver crown that pierced her head, reminding her of our Lord's crown of thorns.

On August 25, 1617, St. Rose died at the age of 31. In 1667, Pope Clement IX beatified her, and in 1671, Pope Clement X canonized her. August 23rd is her feast day, but some countries celebrate her feast day on the 30th of August. St. Rose of Lima is the patroness of embroiderers, gardeners, florists, those who suffer ridicule for their piety and people suffering family problems.

She is the patron saint of the Roman Catholic Church in Cochin, Saskatchewan, that bears her name. Let us pray that through the intercession of St. Rose of Lima, we may devote ourselves faithfully to prayer and the practice of Christian piety such as fasting and penance. May these actions bring us in closer communion with God so as to better discern His will.

(Source: catholic.org)

**READING TASK:** Apostolic Exhortation **GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE** of the Holy Father Francis on the call to holiness in today's world. Given in Rome, at St. Peter's on 19th of March, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, in the year 2018 the sixth year of Francis' Pontificate. [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco\\_esortazione-ap\\_20180319\\_gaudete-et-exsultate.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html)