

A CHRISTIAN FAMILY fights AND SPLITS OVER THEIR LOVE FOR JESUS \

P.Ribes, s.j.

Introduction

- *You will find here below a small skit to be used as a trigger or of a starter for a sermon, a catechism class, a group discussion, a prayer session and any other event on ecumenism.*
- *It was prepared as a skit to be held at a Children's Mass*
- *It can be adapted to any other group or audience and circumstance.*

The skit has three parts

- *Representing in general lines the sad story of fights and divisions within the Christian believers.*

Part one a Happy united Family or Church - roughly, Centuries 1 to 10

Part two: First great split: Latin and Greek Orthodox Churches split, -roughly, Centuries 10 to 15, followed by the many big splits of The Reformation - Protestant Churches from the 15th. Century onwards.

Part three: Modern times. Ecumenical Movement. Efforts towards reunion.

- *You may present the skit in many ways: for instance, acting, - miming – dialogue - reading - etc - initiate your talk, class or discussion*
- *On the occasion of the skit, you may offer your audience a sketchy view of the historical circumstance and reasons for the Church's splits down the centuries. such as: -Cultural differences, power struggles, political forces, lack of communication, human pride ,greed for power, etc,*
- *Stress the important fact that all Divided Churches believe, love and worship the same Jesus Christ. Our Lord. **If Jesus is the central point of Christian belief in all divided Churches. How can, possibly those who sincerely love Christ, fight and hate one another?***

The skit

Part I A Happy Family

(Father, Mother, and three children - Two sons and one daughter)

Once upon a time, there was a family,

It was a very happy family; everybody was good and kind...

The parents and children cherished a picture of Our Lord which all loved very, very much...

Every night they said their night prayers together before that picture...

Then, after, kissing the picture of Jesus, , they greeted good night to each other and went to sleep...

Part II The Family Breaks Away and Divides

(The three a only without the parents)

Some years later, when the children grew up, one child said to the others: 'Soon, I'll be going abroad...I want to take the picture of Jesus with me.. I love Jesus very, very much... '

All the others said: "Not at all! The picture of Jesus does not belong to you alone., It belongs to all of us... to the family! You can't take the picture of Jesus away from us..."

Some time later, one of the girls said: "I am getting married... I want to take the picture of Jesus to my new house... I love Jesus very much..." All said: "Not at all! This picture is not yours... it belongs to the family... We all want it. You will not take Jesus' picture away from us."

Later, the other brother said: "I am getting a job out in Calcutta... I'll take Jesus' with me... I love Him so much that you can't stop me from taking His picture with me!" The others shouted: : "Not at all... We too love Jesus most of all We will not allow you to take Jesus from us.."

And so, the brothers and sister began fighting over the picture of Jesus: They yelled and screamed at each other: "I want it!... I'll take it , Not you, but I... I'll take it..." They even raised their fists at one another and abused each other... Angrily, all grabbed the picture of Jesus and tried to snatch it away from the others.

The picture tore to pieces...In anger, the brothers and sister went away from one another, each carrying a bit of the picture... The beautiful picture of Jesus was destroyed!... The brothers and sisters became sworn enemies!....

And Jesus was very sad,,, .

Part III The Family Feels Sorry and Reunites

Many years later, each child... looking at the bit of the torn picture of Jesus left with him, felt sorry for their past anger and family quarrels .and asked Jesus for pardon.

All said: Jesus forgive me... and me... and me... Forgive us our pride, our anger, and our selfishness....

Help us to forgive one another.. Forget the wrongs we did against each other and help us to be again loving family brothers and sisters united in your name, We want once more, to be a united and happy Christian family...

So, they got up, and taking the bits of the picture of Jesus in their hands went to meet one another...

They met, they embraced one another, they shook hands... they forgave one another.

Then, they put together the bits of the picture of Jesus they had and t rebuilt it up again...

Finally, they knelt down and prayed together in front of the picture of Jesus, and begged of Him: "Jesus, Make us one again for ever ... help us to love one another, keep us united in mind and heart!...

After they prayed, they got up, kissed the picture, kissed each another and lived in peace

They were very, very happy... and Jesus also was very happy too!