

A Visit to the House of Nazareth

*Excerpts from book of Fr. P. Ribes, s.j. "To be Like Jesus"
Published by the Gujarat Sahitya Prakash.*

Intent of this exercise.

- ✓ *To imbibe the Values the Holy Family lived by*
- ✓ *To make our family life, more like the one of Nazareth*
- ✓ *To make our homes, simpler, loving and welcoming.*

Preparation:

- Spend some time in silence before God.
- Ask for help to be more like Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
- In fantasy let us pay a visit to the Holy Family.

Compare:

The Holy Family's style of life to yours

Their behaviour to yours

Their values to yours

Look:

What do you see?

Their house: poor, rich, posh, simple, gadgets, furnishings, tidiness, welcoming,
what about yours?

The persons: Jesus, Mary and Joseph: happy, unhappy, their looks, their attire,
What about you?

Their behaviour: kind, meek, understanding, angry, peaceful, polite, etc.
What about yours?

Their prayer life: family prayers, personal prayer life, union with God.
What about yours?

Listen:

What do you hear?

What is the subject matter of their conversation?

What about yours?

How do they talk to each other?

What about you?

How do they listen to each other?

What about you?

How do they talk and deal with their neighbours?

What about you?

How do they speak about others? Any gossips and criticisms

What about you?

Watch:

What do you do?

House work

What about you?

Earning their livelihood the hard way.

What about you?

Helping each other.

What about you?

How do they share their goods with the needy?

What about you?

How do they treat their guests, the poor, and the needy and unwanted people?

What about you?

What T.V. programs they watch? What books and magazines they read.

What about you?

How do they spend their money?

What about you?

What have you learned from your visit to Nazareth?

How will you imitate Jesus, Joseph and Mary

What will you do?

- 1.** Simplicity of life and Frugality.
- 2.** Hard work and Thrift.
- 3.** Orderliness and wellbeing.
- 4.** Unity, mutual love and acceptance.
- 5.** Peace and Joy.
- 6.** Prayer life.
- 7.** Hospitality.
- 8.** Service to their neighbours and others.
- 9.** Respect for all people.
- 10.** Politeness and courtesy.
- 11.** Absence of criticism and gossip.
- 12.** Clean speech.
- 13.** Charity and concern for others