

us. The incarnation, thus, is the initiative of God to draw closer to man and become one like us in all things except sin, so as to accomplish our salvation in it.

The Holy Family of Nazareth was the first to receive the gift of the Son of God made flesh, experiencing not only the joys and hope but also the anxieties of family life.

Christmas is a family feast during which, in the manner of the Holy Family, we share and celebrate our joys and anxieties with one another, seek reconciliation and renew our bond of love.

2. THE FAMILY TODAY

“The Bible is full of families, births, love stories and family crises. This is true from its very first page, with the appearance of Adam and Eve’s family with all its burden of violence but also its enduring strength (Gen 4) to its very last page, where we behold the wedding feast of the Bride and the Lamb (Rev 21:2, 9)(*Amoris Laetitia* no. 8). Today, the situation of the family seems to cast more shadows; it is experiencing emerging trends which are at variance with the ideal family image foreseen by the Church’s tradition of faith and morals (GCBC Communiqué, 2017). This emerging situation and the attention given to it by the bishops in their communiqué in the light of *Amoris Laetitia*, calls on us to make a three-tier reflection; as food for thought, food for prayer, and food for action.

3. FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Currently, many families are confronted with myriads of challenges. There are countless number of the faithful that are enduring silently serious difficulties in their marriages. While others are living together without any bond of commitment to each other some are living in irregular situations of divorce or separated and remarried and in polygamous unions.