



Essential Evangelization

Sts. Anne and Joachim

This Tuesday, July 26th, we celebrate the feast day of two great saints. They are the traditional grandmother and grandfather of Jesus: Sts. Anne and Joachim. By church tradition, and originally discovered from a document called the Gospel of James (but not to be considered inspired Word of God), we learn of these two parents of our Blessed Mother Mary. Anna, from the Hebrew name Hannah, means "favor" or "grace" and was one of David's house and lineage, and is even considered the mother of the Virgin Mary by Islamic tradition.

Legend has it that after many years of childlessness, an angel appeared to tell Joachim and Anne that they would finally bear a child. Anne promised to dedicate this child to God. Scholars believe that this story parallels the Old Testament birth of Samuel who was also dedicated by his mother Hannah, as recorded in 1st Kings.

Through church tradition the parents of Our Blessed Mother nurtured Mary, taught her and brought her up to be a worthy Mother of God. It must have been their wisdom and teaching that led to Mary's great faith and response to God's plan. It must have been their great example of parenting that Mary used in bringing up her own son, Jesus. It must have been their great faith, strength and courage that allowed her to endure the crucifixion of her son.

Such great parents can be models and intercessors for all parents. St. Anne also holds the great honor of being the patron saint of Christian mothers, grandmothers, women in labor, and the City of Detroit. Both Joachim and Anne are also considered great intercessors for the unborn. There is also a cathedral outside of Quebec City, St. Anne de Beaupre, dedicated to this wonderful saint. Her statue at the main aisle of the church bears the crutches from the many healings that took place in her name. Her relics today lie in Duren, Germany.

Prayer: Parents of Mary, pray for all parents that they may provide the loving home and faithful teaching that you provided your daughter. Amen

*This is one of a series of articles on
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