



Amoris Laetitia Family
Year 2021 - 2022

AMORIS LAETITIA

SPECIAL EDITION

COLLECTION OF THE GUIDES TO DEEPEN THE 10
VIDEOS OF THE POPE WITH THE FAMILIES



Collection of the 10 videos with the Pope

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Introduction

From March to December 2021, the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life - in collaboration with the Dicastery for Communication and Vatican News - released **10 Amoris Laetitia Videos**, with the participation of Pope Francis and a number of families from different parts of the world. Starting from the chapters of the Apostolic Exhortation, the Holy Father has accompanied us to rediscover the value and beauty of marriage and the family in the Church and society.

Each video was accompanied by a printable guide, for use by families and the various ecclesial structures (dioceses, parishes, communities) to encourage formation, reflection and prayer in the family.

This publication now brings together in a single printable digital version the 10 guides, accompanying the special edition with the collection of 10 videos of the pope in dialogue with families (already individually available on the website www.amorislaetitia.va).

The aim is to encourage their use, especially in dioceses and parishes, by proposing them as **a pastoral path** to be followed with families. Therefore, it is not a mere collection, but a path that can be flexibly adapted, integrated or simplified by pastors and family pastoral workers, to continue also to make known the pastoral richness of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris laetitia*. It is not enough, in fact, for pastors and pastoral workers to give it “a hasty general reading”: rather, it is desirable that, together with families, they patiently delve into one part after another, seeking in it what they will need in each concrete circumstance (cf. Al 7).

Each guide, in fact, in addition to the words spoken by the Pope and by the families, proposes reflections and family or group activities inspired by the theme in order to facilitate the educational and spiritual journey with the families.

Among the various topics developed are: the contribution of families to family ministry; love in marriage; fertility of the couple in the generation of children and in the Christian choice of adoption; vocation of families in the Church; courage in the

education of children; accompaniment of family fragility and crisis; spiritual life of the family.

The hope is that this collection can truly be a service to family ministry in every part of the world. As part of the synodal journey initiated by Pope Francis, let us remember that meeting families, listening to them, and soliciting pastoral reflection among them is a concrete way to achieve that participation and communion that must be today, more than ever, the pastoral method par excellence.

The **10 Amoris Laetitia Videos** initiative is a project of the “Amoris Laetitia Family” Year desired by the Holy Father Francis in preparation for the *Tenth World Meeting of Families* (22-26 June 2022) and organised by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

Guide n. 1

Video n.1



Walking Together

“Let us make this journey as families, let us keep walking together. What we have been promised is greater than we can imagine. May we never lose heart because of our limitations, or ever stop seeking that fullness of love and communion which God holds out before us.” AL 325

“Walking Together”

Through a series of 10 videos, beginning with the chapters of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, the Holy Father, with the help of several families, invites us *to journey together* to rediscover the family as a gift, despite every problem, obstacle and challenge that families have to face today.

Each video is accompanied by a guide that can be used flexibly either by families or by various ecclesial groups (diocesan, parochial, community). Each guide is then subdivided into 4 parts. Each of these can be used for further reflection in the family or in a community, in different moments as well. This tool is intended to be helpful for pastoral ministry to families, and contains proposals and suggestions that can be adapted to the local situation.

The objective is to nurture reflection, dialogue and pastoral practice and, at the same time, to provide encouragement, stimulus and help to families in their spiritual and concrete daily lives (AL 4).

The Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, with its simple and concrete language, is meant to reach the entire Church, particularly Christian families. Pope Francis’s advice is that it should never be read hastily, but “patiently deepened”, or finding more information on topics that interest you the most.



“It is my hope that, in reading this text, all will feel called to love and cherish family life, for ‘families are not a problem; they are first and foremost an opportunity’” (AL 7)

1

A missionary conversion to build an alliance among families

Holy Father:

“In the Church and in pastoral ministry to families, a ‘**missionary conversion**’ needs to be started, to journey along with families and help them face challenges confidently and serenely – challenges they often face alone.”

“This effort calls for missionary conversion by everyone in the Church, that is, one that is not content to proclaim a merely theoretical message without connection to people’s real problems”.²²⁹ Pastoral care for families “needs to make it clear that the Gospel of the family responds to the deepest expectations of the human person: a response to each one’s dignity and fulfilment in reciprocity, communion and fruitfulness. This consists not merely in presenting a set of rules, but in proposing values that are clearly needed today, even in the most secularized of countries.” AL 201

Michael and Hun Ching

“The earlier years of our marriage were especially challenging because of disagreements over parenting. [...]. We learned to communicate in a respectful way, **to cherish the gift of family** and to make daily decisions to love each other and our children. And by anchoring ourselves in a **community of like-minded families**, we are constantly reminded to be a sign of God’s love to one another.”

“The main contribution to the pastoral care of families is offered by the parish, which is the family of families, where small communities, ecclesial movements and associations live in harmony”. AL 202





Invitation to reflect:

Are we aware of the sacred and inviolable character of us as a couple and of our family?

As a community, do we know how to value our families and their pastoral role?



Family dynamic:

Each family member communicates in their own way – through a gesture, a thought or a word – to other members of the family how important they consider their own family to be.



Community or group dynamic:

The couples/families present are invited to get to know each other in small groups.

A concrete symbol, a flower for example, can be given to each family the following Sunday at Mass.

Prayer

Holy Family of Nazareth, awaken in our society the awareness of the sacred and inviolable character of the family, what a priceless and irreplaceable good it is.

May every family provide a welcoming home of goodness and peace for children and for the elderly, for those who are ill and alone, for those who are poor and in need.

Amen.

Pope Francis



2

To recognize the gifts of marriage and the family.

Holy Father:

“The Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* is an invitation for young people and Christian families, so that they might **esteem the gifts of marriage and the family**, and cultivate a strong love among themselves, rooted deeply in Christ and filled with such values as generosity, dedication, fidelity and patience.”

“This Exhortation [...] represents an invitation to Christian families to value the gifts of marriage and the family, and to persevere in a love strengthened by the virtues of generosity, commitment, fidelity and patience. Second, because it seeks to encourage everyone to be a sign of mercy and closeness wherever family life remains imperfect or lacks peace and joy.” AL 5

Michael and Hun Ching

“We believe that young people still have a longing for families because we are all made in the image of God. And because of that, there is a **desire for loving relationships**, and we feel that the family is still the best place for them to find that. However, this may be difficult because of the **complexities of the world** that we live in today.”



“Nowadays we are grateful too for the witness of marriages that have not only proved lasting, but also fruitful and loving.” AL 38

“The strength of the family ‘lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love. For all a family’s problems, it can always grow, beginning with love.” AL 53

We need to find the right language, arguments and forms of witness that can help us reach the hearts of young people, appealing to their capacity for generosity, commitment, love and even heroism, and in this way inviting them to take up the challenge of marriage with enthusiasm and courage. AL 40



Invitation to reflect:

What does “to love” a person mean?



Family dynamic:

Organize a family evening on the theme of love, in which each family member writes or draws on what it means to love a person. Time can be allotted so each person can explain what he or she has written/drawn.



Community or group dynamic:

In small groups, each family/couple shares an experience in which they felt God’s love.

Prayer:

Grant us, Lord, the gift of growing day by day in the capacity of looking at each other sincerely, of listening to each other attentively, of talking to each other truthfully, of offering each other welcoming, attentive, loving gestures, so Your light might shine in the darkness of the world through our family.

Amen.



3

The family: a sign of mercy

Holy Father:

“With *“Amoris Laetitia”* I want to encourage every one of you to be a **sign of mercy and nearness** wherever family life is not lived perfectly or where it does not foster peace and joy.”

“Many people feel that the Church’s message on marriage and the family does not clearly reflect the preaching and attitudes of Jesus, who set forth a demanding ideal yet never failed to show compassion and closeness to the frailty of individuals like the Samaritan woman or the woman caught in adultery.” AL 38

Michael and Hun Ching

“Couples need help to grow in a relationship and to be good role models to their children. And this is where **the church has a big role to play.**”

“ ‘Couples are often uncertain, hesitant and struggling to find ways to grow. Many tend to remain in the early stages of their affective and sexual life. A crisis in a couple’s relationship destabilizes the family and may lead, through separation and divorce, to serious consequences for adults, children and society as a whole, weakening its individual and social bonds.’ Marital problems are ‘often confronted in haste and without the courage to have patience and reflect, to make sacrifices and to forgive one another.’ ” AL 41





Invitation to reflect:

How do we live “mercy” within our family?



Family dynamic:

Each family member commits him/herself to do something expressing forgiveness and acceptance toward another family member.



Community or group dynamic:

Organize a “celebration of forgiveness,” with a moment in which the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated, followed by a festive communitarian moment.

Prayer:

Thank you Lord, for your loving gaze which allows us to look at our mistakes and gives us the desire and the strength to overcome them. Thank you for the safety we feel remaining under your gaze. Grant that we might know how to give the same gift of a loving, welcoming, understanding gaze to our spouses, our children and to every brother and sister we meet in our day.

Amen.



4

To care for every family.

Holy Father:

“Today we will begin a 10-month journey undertaken together to talk about **the beauty of being a family**.

Everyone is called to lovingly care for the life of the **family**, because families are never a problem, **they are always a gift** and in terms of the future, they are an opportunity.”

“The covenant of love and fidelity lived by the Holy Family of Nazareth illuminates the principle which gives shape to every family, and enables it better to face the vicissitudes of life and history. On this basis, every family, despite its weaknesses, can become a light in the darkness of the world. ‘Nazareth teaches us the meaning of family life, its loving communion, its simple and austere beauty, its sacred and inviolable character. May it teach how sweet and irreplaceable is its training, how fundamental and incomparable its role in the social order’ (Paul VI, Address in Nazareth, 5 January 1964)” AL 66



Invitation to reflect:

What is beautiful about our family, beyond our limitations, hardships and our difficulties?



Family dynamic:

Each family member can indicate to the others a positive and beautiful aspect about each and every member of their own family.



Community or group dynamic:

Each person says something beautiful and highlights positive aspects about their own community, insofar as it is a large family.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we entrust our family and every family in the world to you. Teach us to look at each other with always renewed wonder, never imagining that we know someone else completely, but always able to see the infinite beauty you have placed in each person. Help us to discover that love has its needs and grant us the strength to respect them always.

Amen



Invitation to read Amoris Laetitia.

Amoris Laetitia nn. 1-7

The experiences and challenges of families

Amoris Laetitia, nn. 31-57

AMORIS LAETITIA:



Family Love: Vocation and Path to Holiness

Heavenly Father,

We come before You to praise
You and to thank You for the great gift of the family.

We pray to You for all families consecrated by the Sacrament of Matrimony.
May they rediscover each day the graces they have received,
and as small domestic churches,
may they know how to witness to Your presence
and to the love with which Christ loves the Church.

We pray to You for all families faced with difficulty and suffering
caused by illness or circumstances of which only You know.
Sustain them and make them aware
of the path to holiness upon which You call them,
so that they might experience Your infinite mercy
and find new ways to grow in love.

We pray to You for children and young people.
May they encounter You and respond joyfully to the vocation You have in mind for them.
We pray for their parents and grandparents.
May they be aware that they are signs of the fatherhood and motherhood of God
in caring for the children who, in body and spirit,
You entrust to them, as well as in the experience of fraternity
that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that each family
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church
as a call to become missionary disciples,
in the service of life and peace,
in communion with our priests, religious, and all vocations in the Church.

Bless the World Meeting of Families in Rome.

Amen.

(Prayer for the X World Meeting of Families
ROME, 22-26 June 2022)

www.amorislaititia.va



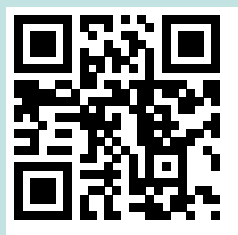
Amoris Laetitia Family
Year 2021 - 2022



Amoris Laetitia Family
Year 2021 - 2022

Guide no .2

Video no .2



The Family in the Light of the Word of God

The Family in the Light of the Word of God

1

Conjugal love: “living icon” through which God is made manifest

Holy Father

“How do we imagine God’s love? Is there a concrete reality in the world that helps us see this love with our own eyes? Certainly there is! It is the family! The image of God is reflected in man and in woman, in conjugal love: a living ‘icon’ through which God is made manifest”.

“The triune God is a communion of love, and the family is its living reflection. Saint John Paul II shed light on this when he said, ‘Our God in his deepest mystery is not solitude, but a family, for he has within himself fatherhood, sonship and the essence of the family, which is love. That love, in the divine family, is the Holy Spirit’. The family is thus not unrelated to God’s very being”. AL 11



Pedro and Trini

Pedro: “We know that God created us for each other from the beginning of time. I have been in love with Trini since we were engaged. To this day I appreciate the passion she has in life.”

Trini: “I like how Pedro is so courageous. He jumps into all the projects he undertakes and devotes himself to them with such passion”.

“Let us cross the threshold of this tranquil home, with its family sitting around the festive table. At the centre we see the father and mother, a couple with their personal story of love. They embody the primordial divine plan clearly spoken of by Christ himself: ‘Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female?’ (Mt 19:4). We hear an echo of the command found in the Book of Genesis: ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh’ (Gen 2:24)”. AL 9



Invitation to reflect:

Let us cross the threshold of our home: there we discover who we are as a couple and the story of our love in which God's plan for us is fulfilled.

We fell in love because we saw in the other the spark that reflected something about God's beauty.

What does this affirmation evoke in us?

Do I still see this beauty in the other? Do I ever think about it?

We pause a moment to contemplate the mystery of the presence of Jesus in our love as a couple.



Family dynamic:

Looking together at the photos of our wedding day, we remember the first moments when we were in love. We can share what made us fall in love with our spouse or with our family.



Community or group dynamic:

The couples/families present are invited to form small groups to share a few memories about the beginning of their love-story.

Prayer

Praise to you, Lord,
who gave us to each other as spouses
and who have made us living images
of your Love.

Help us grow every day
in our ability of sincerely looking
at each other,
of listening to each other attentively,
of speaking in truth to each other,
of offering each other signs
of acceptance, of attention, of love.

Grant us, O Lord,
the gift of being able to marvel
at the beauty of our spousal love.
Amen.



2

No one is destined to be alone

Holy Father

How is a family born? It is born out of an encounter between an I and a you, of a man and a woman who discover each other and heal their solitude. No one is destined to be alone. We have been thought of by Another to be a gift of love for someone and to generate life in love”.

“This encounter, which relieves man’s solitude, gives rise to new birth and to the family. [...] ‘The man shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one’. [...] The very word ‘to be joined’ or ‘to cleave’, in the original Hebrew, bespeaks a profound harmony, a closeness both physical and interior. [...] The marital union is thus evoked not only in its sexual and corporal dimension, but also in its voluntary self-giving in love”. AL 13

Pedro and Trini

Trini: “I like knowing we are God’s instruments. We are very confident in his plan and we know that his Providence will help us fulfil it”.

Pedro: “Our family is a domestic Church. God’s love is present. Jesus makes himself present around our table, in our prayer, in the way we raise our children, in sorrow and in joy”.

“We know that the New Testament speaks of “churches that meet in homes”. [...] A family’s living space could turn into a domestic church, a setting for the Eucharist, the presence of Christ seated at its table. We can never forget the image found in the Book of Revelation, where the Lord says: ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me’ (3:20). Here we see a home filled with the presence of God, common prayer and every blessing”. AL 15



“The family is called to join in daily prayer, to read the word of God and to share in Eucharistic communion, and thus to grow in love and become ever more fully a temple in which the Spirit dwells”. AL 29



Invitation to reflect:

The living presence of Jesus in our love, due to the Sacrament of Matrimony, makes our family a domestic Church.

We reflect and share with our spouse or with our family what this marvellous truth evokes in us.



Family dynamic:

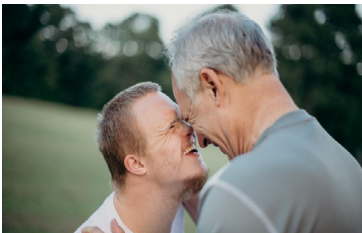
Has it ever happened that my spouse lived moments of loneliness because of my behaviour? Try to speak about this.

We can ask our children if they have ever felt lonely in the family.



Community or group dynamic:

As a domestic family-Church, do we know how to be on the look-out around us and make people, who for various reasons live moments of solitude, feel welcome? Each couple or family can make a concrete commitment, thinking of someone in the places they frequent who is living a moment of difficulty or loneliness.



Prayer:

Lord Jesus,
we praise you because you are
present in our family, our domestic Church.
Help us be attentive to those around us
so no one might feel alone
because of our behaviour,
because of the lack of a welcoming embrace,
because we have spoken the wrong words.
Grant us the ability of stopping,
and of joyfully taking time to listen,
of giving a welcoming sign,
an act of mercy and of forgiveness.
Amen.

3

Authentic love always generates life

Holy Father

“A couple’s ability to generate life is an image of the dynamism of love operative in God, of God’s creative action. Fruitful love, generative love, is a symbol of God’s inner life. Every time a child is conceived, a man and woman procreate together with God. They give a Son or Daughter to God who intervenes in that love. For this reason, every human life is unique and precious and it needs to be protected”.

“The couple that loves and begets life is a true, living icon – not an idol like those of stone or gold prohibited by the Decalogue – capable of revealing God the Creator and Saviour. For this reason, fruitful love becomes a symbol of God’s inner life. [...] The ability of human couples to beget life is the path along which the history of salvation progresses. Seen this way, the couple’s fruitful relationship becomes an image for understanding and describing the mystery of God himself”. AL 11

Pedro and Trini

Pedro: “We know that God has given us our children, that they are not our property. Our task is to help them accomplish their mission, to fulfil their own projects of life”.

Trini: “We transmit the faith to each other: parents to children and children to parents. Parents transmit God’s paternity and our children teach us what it means to be children”.

“The Bible also presents the family as the place where children are brought up in the faith. [...] ‘All that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us, we will not hide from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders which he has wrought. [...] [They will then] arise and tell them to their children’ (Ps 78:3-6). The family is thus the place where parents become their children’s first teachers in the faith. They learn this ‘trade’, passing it down from one person to another: ‘When in time to come your son asks you... You shall say to him...’ (Ex 13:14)”. AL 16

“The Gospel goes on to remind us that children are not the property of a family, but have their own lives to lead. Jesus is a model of obedience to his earthly parents, placing himself under their charge (cf. Lk 2:51), but he also shows that children’s life decisions and their Christian vocation may demand a parting for the sake of the Kingdom of God”. AL 18



Invitation to reflect:

Our children, natural and spiritual, are gifts from God who entrusts them to us so we might raise them as His children. What does this concretely mean for us? Are we aware of this?



Family dynamic:

We reflect with our spouse and then with our family about how the Lord has made us fruitful in these years.



Community or group dynamic:

“Everyone who fears the Lord is fruitful” (See Ps 128:1-6).

The Psalmist not only refers to biological children, but also to all the children every couple can generate in the love of the Holy Spirit.

We reflect on what it means for our family to generate life in the community to which we belong.

How do we concretely express this generativity each day? How do we make ourselves of service to others and to the community?

Prayer:

Holy Family of Nazareth,
awaken in our society
the awareness of the sacred and inviolable
character of the family,
what a priceless and irreplaceable
good it is.

May every family provide
a welcoming home
of goodness and peace
for children and for the elderly,
for those who are ill and alone,
for those who are poor and in need.
Amen.

Pope Francis, Synod on the Family,
27 October 2013



4

The mystery of God is reflected in the family

Holy Father

“The mystery of God, which is familial love, communion of love between a Father and a Son, is reflected in the family.

Live courageously and serenely every family challenge, whether sad or exciting. In your hearts, preserve and meditate God’s wonders hidden in each instant of your daily lives! God loves us and makes everything work for the good of those who seek Him”.

“The word of God is not a series of abstract ideas but rather a source of comfort and companionship for every family that experiences difficulties or suffering. For it shows them the goal of their journey, when God ‘will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more’ (Rev 21:4)”. AL 22



“With a gaze of faith and love, grace and fidelity, we have contemplated the relationship between human families and the divine Trinity”. AL 29

“Like Mary, [families] are asked to face their family’s challenges with courage and serenity, in good times and bad, and to keep in their heart the great things which God has done (see Lk 2:19, 51). The treasury of Mary’s heart also contains the experiences of every family, which she cherishes. For this reason, she can help us understand the meaning of these experiences and to hear the message God wishes to communicate through the life of our families”. AL 30





Invitation to reflection:

We reflect on how many difficulties we have faced as a couple and as a family and how God has been present in these difficulties.



Family dynamic:

As a couple and as a family, do we succeed in discovering the signs of God's presence not only in the larger challenges we have faced, but also in the everyday ones? How and where have we experienced God's presence today?



Community or group dynamic:

Each couple/family is invited to share how they succeed, despite difficulties, lack of time, obligations, in cultivating a relationship with God in their own daily lives.

Each couple/family chooses a small daily resolution to remember the presence of Jesus in their own domestic Church.

Prayer

Ever Virgin Mary,
sweet Spouse and tender Mother,
we consecrate and entrust all our families to your Immaculate Heart.
Bring them peace, unity, love and pardon.
Sustain families in difficulty with your solicitude and unite broken families
with the strength of your Heart.
Protect the lives of newborns and grant
the joy of maternity to those who long for it.
Guide our children, so they might conserve their faith in the Lord
and find affection in their own home.
Help those who are tried by sickness, by suffering,
by delusion, by loneliness.
Provide work and daily bread to everyone.
Be our strength in our everyday difficulties
and obtain for us from God the grace of His Blessing
and an increase of our faith.
Amen.

Invitation to read Amoris Laetitia.

In the Light of the Word

Amoris Laetitia, 8-30

Link to the Apostolic Exhortation *AMORIS LAETITIA*



Family Love: Vocation and Path to Holiness

Holy Father,

We come before You to praise You
and to thank You for the great gift of the family.
We pray to You for all families
consecrated by the Sacrament of Matrimony.
May they rediscover each day
the grace they have received,
and as small domestic Churches,
may they know how to witness to Your presence
and to the love with which Christ loves the Church.
We pray to You for all families faced with difficulty and suffering
caused by illness or circumstances of which only You know.
Sustain them and make them aware
of the path to holiness upon which You call them,
so that they might experience Your infinite mercy
and find new ways to grow in love.
We pray to You for children and young people:
may they encounter You and respond joyfully
to the vocation You have in mind for them;
We pray for parents and grandparents: may they be aware
that they are signs of the fatherhood and motherhood of God
in caring for the children who, in body and spirit, You entrust to them;
and for the experience of fraternity
that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that each family
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church
as a call to become missionary disciples,
in the service of life and peace,
in communion with our priests, religious,
and all vocations in the Church.
Bless the World Meeting of Families in Rome.
Amen.

Official prayer for the *X World Meeting of Families* 22-26 June 2022

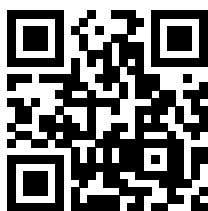
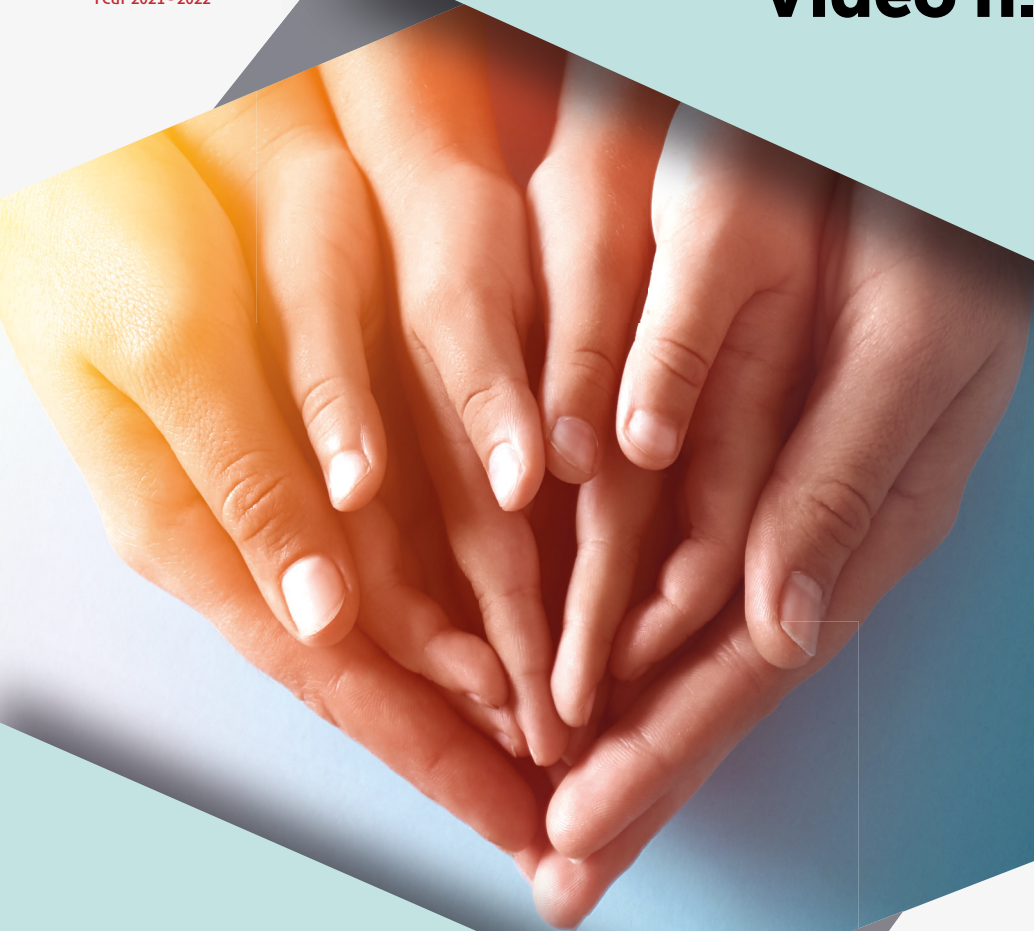
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Amoris Laetitia Family
Year 2021 - 2022

Guide n.3

Video n.3



**The Vocation
of the Family**

The Vocation of the Family

1

The family can become a light in the darkness of the world

Holy Father

With the same look of tenderness and mercy that Jesus had, the Church wants to accompany families so that every family might be a pillar of evangelization. I would like to say one thing to you: with the sacrament of matrimony, every family receives the grace to become a light in the darkness of the world.

*“Jesus looked upon the women and men whom he met with love and tenderness, accompanying their steps in truth, **patience and mercy** as he proclaimed the demands of the Kingdom of God”. The Lord is also with us today, as we seek to practice and pass on the Gospel of the family”. AL 60*

*“The covenant of love and fidelity lived by the Holy Family of Nazareth (...) enables [every family] better to face the vicissitudes of life and history. On this basis, **every family**, despite its weaknesses, **can become a light in the darkness of the world**”. AL 66*

“Through his Church, Christ bestows on marriage and the family the grace necessary to bear witness to the love of God and to live the life of communion”. AL 63

Antonio and Angela

Antonio: After thirty-one years of married life, we found sacramental grace of marriage is making things possible with Jesus.

Angela: I was told it is impossible to have babies when I was young. But finally, we've got three children.

Antonio: I got the power of the Holy Spirit to accept our differences and limitations of each other. I learned how to compromise honestly. I learned how to listen to the feelings of Angela and our children.

“I wish to turn my gaze to the living Christ, who is at the heart of so many love stories, and to invoke the fire of the Spirit upon all the world's families”. AL 59

*“The common life of husband and wife, the entire network of relations that they build with their children and the world around them, **will be steeped in and strengthened by the grace of the sacrament**. Neither of the spouses **will be alone in facing whatever challenges may come their way**. Both are called to respond to God's gift with commitment, creativity, perseverance and daily effort. They can always invoke the assistance of the Holy Spirit who consecrated their union, so that his grace may be felt in every new situation that they encounter”. AL 74*



Invitation to reflect:

Through the Church, the Lord Jesus looks with tenderness and mercy on every family. Let us praise the Lord because he accepts and loves us as we are, with all our limitations and weakness.



Family dynamic:

Let us choose a particular moment during our day in which we can light a candle and remind ourselves of the living presence of Jesus in our family. It could be a moment at mealtime or a moment of prayer as a couple or as a family.



Community or group dynamic:

We can give each family a small candle that can be lit on the altar on which a larger candle can be placed that symbolizes the Light of Christ present in every domestic Church.



Prayer

Thank you, Lord, because by loving,
every family can reveal the light of your Presence.
Thank you, because in our weakness
you accompany us with love and tenderness.
Grant that we might never feel alone
when facing difficulties and challenges,
however large or small they are.
Grant that we might know how to respond with dedica-
tion and creativity,
to the gift of your Grace,
without getting tired of trying again each time we fall.
We invoke the gift of your Holy Spirit on each family
so that many small lights might be lit
in the darkness of the world.
Amen.

2

Married saints

Holy Father

Do you know about a canonized couple? There are a number of processes for the beatification of holy couples. Saints who were married, who became saints together, both the husband and the wife. Normal people, common people who witnessed to the love of Jesus through their marriage. Each of your marriages can be holy if you want. You spouses are like consecrated people, persons and you are essential in building the building up of the Church.

“Christ the Lord ‘makes himself present to the Christian spouses in the sacrament of marriage’ and remains with them. In the incarnation, he assumes human love, purifies it and brings it to fulfilment. By his Spirit, he gives spouses the capacity to live that love, permeating every part of their lives of faith, hope and charity. In this way, the spouses are consecrated and by means of a special grace build up the Body of Christ and form a domestic church (cf. Lumen Gentium, 11), so that the Church, in order fully to understand her mystery, looks to the Christian family, which manifests her in a real way”. AL 67

“Spouses, in their mutual love, receive the gift of the Spirit of Christ and live their call to holiness”. AL 69

“The beauty of this mutual, gratuitous gift, the joy which comes from a life that is born and the loving care of all family members – from toddlers to seniors – are just a few of the fruits which make the response to the vocation of the family”. AL 88

Antonio and Angela

Angela: As mentioned in *Amoris Laetitia*, marriage is a path to holiness.

Antonio: Yes, sometimes it was difficult and critical, just like the vocation [consecrated] life.

Angela: We put family in first priority, other than our personal favor or career.

Antonio: Twenty years ago, I decided not to work in China so I can stay with my family. For me, that was too difficult to compromise. But it works.

“The sacrament of marriage is not a social convention, an empty ritual or merely the outward sign of a commitment. The sacrament is a gift given for the sanctification and salvation of the spouses. (...) Consequently, the decision to marry and to have a family ought to be the fruit of a process of vocational discernment.” AL 72

“Through their union in love, the couple experiences the beauty of fatherhood and motherhood, and shares plans, trials, expectations and concerns; they learn care for one another.”

other and mutual forgiveness. In this love, they celebrate their happy moments and support each other in the difficult passages of their life together". AL 88



Invitation to reflection:

When the way God loves becomes the measure of our love as a couple, then between us two and in our family, the ordinary becomes extraordinary; everyday actions are transformed because they are inhabited by God.

Let us choose an action that we do routinely (it could be saying hello in the morning or goodnight in the evening). Let us try to communicate our love through this small action.



Family dynamic:

Let us look for the example of a couple who are canonized, beatified or venerable. Let us read an example written about them and share what might be possible in our life.



Community or group dynamic:

A text or video that presents the life of a couple that has been canonized, beatified or declared venerable can be used. Everyone can share in small groups some aspect of holiness that they think is possible in their own life.

Prayer

Holy Family of Nazareth,
help us to learn day by day,
the value of each small action that,
even if it is routine or difficult,
can communicate love to the person next to me.
Grant that we might know how to protect our family
as the way that has been given to us for our full human flourishing,
as the way in which we are to respond to the call holiness.
Grant that we might know how to joyfully live our commitment each day;
to know how to welcome each brother and sister with unconditional love;
to believe that holiness can become a path possible for every family.
Amen.

3

The Church is the “family of families”

Holy Father

Each family is a blessing, a strength for the Church! The beauty of the gift that is generated within families, the joy for life that is born and the taking care of the little ones and the elderly make every family irreplaceable not only in the Church, but also in society. This is why the Church is the “family of families”, enriched by the contribution of each of you.

“The experience of love in families is a perennial source of strength for the life of the Church”. AL 88

“The Church is a family of families, constantly enriched by the lives of all those domestic churches. In virtue of the sacrament of matrimony, every family becomes, in effect, a good for the Church. From this standpoint, reflecting on the interplay between the family and the Church will prove a precious gift for the Church in our time. The Church is good for the family, and the family is good for the Church”. AL 87

Antonio and Angela

Angela: Our third daughter, Maria, was born in 2005, when I was 43 years old. People thought it was a big risk and asked me to give it up.

Antonio: However, the fruit of our marriage is obviously a blessing.

“It follows that ‘spouses to whom God has not granted children can have a conjugal life full of meaning, in both human and Christian terms’. Nonetheless, the conjugal union is ordered to procreation ‘by its very nature’. The child who is born ‘does not come from outside as something added on to the mutual love of the spouses, but springs from the very heart of that mutual giving, as its fruit and fulfilment’. He or she does not appear at the end of a process, but is present from the beginning of love as an essential feature, one that cannot be denied without disfiguring that love itself. From the outset, love refuses every impulse to close in on itself; it is open to a fruitfulness that draws it beyond itself”. AL 80

“The choice of adoption or foster parenting can also express that fruitfulness which is a characteristic of married life. With special gratitude the Church ‘supports families who accept, raise and surround with affection children with various disabilities’ ”. AL 82



Invitation to reflection:

Our family is a gift not only for ourselves and our children, but for the entire Church. We are a gift because our loving gestures reveal to each person an image of God's paternal and maternal love. What does this truth evoke in us?



Family dynamic:

Concretely, how can our love be fruitful, that is, how can we show our love to the people who surround us?



Community or group dynamic:

Couples/families and priests/deacons can talk with each other about what they expect from each other, reflecting together on how the Church and the family are both necessary to build the Church together.

Prayer

O Holy Family of Nazareth,
who lived in total abandonment in God's hands,
witnesses of the Lord's merciful goodness,
bless all the families in the world.
Awaken holy desires in the hearts of the
young people.
Place in the hearts of engaged couples the Spirit
of purity and mutual respect.
Root deeply within married couples a love that
is steadfast and generous. Develop a sense of ma-
ternity and paternity
in the lives of parents.
Make every Christian family an eloquent sign
of God's love for the world,
small domestic churches,
where grace can produce abundant
fruits of holiness.
Amen.



4

The meaning of our life together

Holy Father

Other Popes before me have written as well on the matters that interest families: I spoke of them in *Amoris laetitia*. Read it and you will find answers to many questions about the meaning of your life together.

“Here we understand the way to live as a family. ‘Nazareth teaches us the meaning of family life, its loving communion, its simple and austere beauty, its sacred and inviolable character. May it teach how sweet and irreplaceable is its training, how fundamental and incomparable its role in the social order’ (Paul VI, Address in Nazareth, 5 January 1964)”. AL 66

“Following this divine pedagogy, the Church turns with love to those who participate in her life in an imperfect manner: she seeks the grace of conversion for them; she encourages them to do good, to take loving care of each other and to serve the community in which they live and work”. AL78





Invitation to reflection:

The Church offers us many documents that help us understand the family. We too should feel called to respond to the Holy Father's invitation to read some of these documents, in particular *Amoris Laetitia*.



Family dynamic:

Let us find a topic that interests us in the table of contents of *Amoris Laetitia*. Let us read it and meditate on it together.



Community or group dynamic:

Let us find a topic that interests us in the table of contents of *Amoris Laetitia*. Let us read it and meditate on it together. Then let us share our reflections in a group.

Prayer

I believe in the family, O Lord:
that it came forth from your creative design,
founded on the rock of eternal and fruitful love;
that You chose it as your dwelling among us,
that You willed it be the cradle of life.

I believe in the family, O Lord:
even when in our home
the darkness of the cross might enter in,
when love loses its original attractiveness,
when everything becomes arduous and heavy.

I believe in the family, O Lord:
as a luminous sign of hope
amidst the crises of our time;
as the source of love and of life,
as the counterbalance of aggression,
egoism and death.

I believe in the family, O Lord:
as my path toward full human realization
as my call to holiness,
as my mission to transform the world
into the image of your Kingdom.

(Father Enrico Masseroni)



Invitation to read Amoris Laetitia

“Looking to Jesus: the Vocation of the Family”

t, 58-88

Link to the Apostolic Exhortation *AMORIS LAETITIA*



Family Love: Vocation and Path to Holiness

Heavenly Father,

We come before You to praise You
and to thank You for the great gift of the family.

We pray to You for all families
consecrated by the Sacrament of Matrimony.

May they rediscover each day
the grace they have received,
and as small domestic Churches,
may they know how to witness to Your presence
and to the love with which Christ loves the Church.

We pray to You for all families faced with difficulty and suffering
caused by illness or circumstances which only You know.

Sustain them and make them aware
of the path to holiness upon which You call them,
so that they might experience Your infinite mercy
and find new ways to grow in love.

We pray to You for children and young people:
may they encounter You and respond joyfully
to the vocation You have in mind for them;

We pray for parents and grandparents: may they be aware
that they are signs of the fatherhood and motherhood of God
in caring for the children who, in body and spirit, You entrust to them;
and for the experience of fraternity
that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that each family
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church
as a call to become missionary disciples,
in the service of life and peace,
in communion with our priests, religious,
and all vocations in the Church.

Bless the World Meeting of Families.

Amen.

Official prayer for the *X World Meeting of Families* 22-26 June 2022

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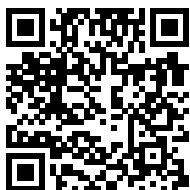
Amoris Laetitia Family
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Video n.4



Love in Marriage

Love in Marriage

1.

Love is...

HOLY FATHER

“You spouses have the gift of the grace of the sacrament that can make you perfect in love... And so let’s discuss this love! **Love is patient, love is kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right**”.

“Love is experienced and nurtured in the daily life of couples and their children. It is helpful to think more deeply about the meaning of this Pauline text and its relevance for the concrete situation of every family” AL 90.

“To love is also to be gentle and thoughtful (...) love is not rude or impolite; it is not harsh. Its actions, words and gestures are pleasing and not abrasive or rigid. Love abhors making others suffer (...). [Courtesy] is not something that a Christian may accept or reject. As an essential requirement of love, “every human being is bound to live agreeably with those around him” AL 99.

Julie and Gérard

Julie: “On our 17th wedding anniversary, we felt the need to take some time to shed light on the challenging areas of our life as a couple. Guided by a priest, we came out of the experience very enriched. At the end of it, the priest even asked us to pray for him”.

Gérard: “This retreat allowed us to shed light on many challenging areas. One day I was in difficulty because there had been a misunderstanding between us and when there is a misunderstanding, I frown and speak little. Then one morning when I woke up, I saw a gift in my closet, and I remembered that it was my birthday. I remember that I really appreciated it and showed it to the kids. I was just happy and the misunderstanding was gone.”.

“Unless we cultivate patience, we will always find excuses for responding angrily. We will end up incapable of living together, antisocial, unable to control our impulses, and our families will become battlegrounds” AL 92.

“Every day, ‘entering into the life of another, even when that person already has a part to play in our life, demands the sensitivity and restraint which can renew trust and respect” AL 99.



Reflection:

To love means to make gestures of love towards someone and, at the same time, to make ourselves 'lovable' by reflecting on our behavior and making it easy for others to love us.



Within the family:

"Love is..." Pope Francis highlights several characteristics of love. We choose one and make a commitment to try realizing it within our family.



As a community or group:

Let us offer families a time for a 'retreat' so that they can be guided in reexamining their relationships in light of the Hymn to Charity. (1 Cor 13:4-7).



Prayer

Lord, love is patient;
help me to be patient with others.

Lord, love is kind;
help me to always wish for the good of the other person
before my own, even if it costs something.

Lord, love is not jealous;
teach me to rejoice in the success of others.

Lord, love is not pompous;
give me the humility to recognize your gifts.

Lord, love is not boastful;
help me to put others at the center of my concern.

Lord, love is not rude;
help me to see Your face in others.

Lord, love does not seek its own interests;
allow me to savor the joy of giving freely.

Amen

2.

Love is more than a feeling

HOLY FATHER

“Love excuses all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Everything! Anything! It is love in spite of everything. To love means to rejoice for others, for their success. How important it is to teach children to celebrate the joy of others! A birthday, an achievement! Because it is good that the family is the place where joy is celebrated!”

“Throughout the text, it is clear that Paul wants to stress that love is more than a mere feeling. Rather, it should be understood along the lines of the Hebrew verb ‘to love’; it is ‘to do good’. As Saint Ignatius of Loyola said, ‘Love is shown more by deeds than by words’” AL 94.

“‘God loves a cheerful giver’ (2 Cor 9:7), Our Lord especially appreciates those who find joy in the happiness of others. If we fail to learn how to rejoice in the well-being of others, and focus primarily on our own needs, we condemn ourselves to a joyless existence (...). The family must always be a place where, when something good happens to one of its members, they know that others will be there to celebrate it with them” AL 110.

Julie e Gérard

Julie: “There was also another episode. Every morning, upon awakening, the children came to our room to say good morning. One morning, our youngest child, who was six at the time, witnessed this scene: I insisted saying goodbye to dad before going to work. He refused to return the greeting, since he was in a bad mood. Therefore the child looked at us for a moment and then said to me: “Mom, Dad understood that you have to go to work”. Faced with the wisdom of our son, I obeyed and we were reconciled with each other”.

Gerard: “Yes, our children mean a lot to us. Every day, when I come home from work, I greet them and kiss them individually, all four of them”.

“It does not matter if (others) hold me back, if they unsettle my plans, or annoy me by the way they act or think, or if they are not everything I want them to be. Love always has an aspect of deep compassion that leads to accepting the other person as part of this world, even when he or she acts differently than I would like” AL 92.

“Married couples joined by love speak well of each other; they try to show their spouse’s good side, not their weakness and faults...Love does not have to be perfect for us to value it...Love coexists with imperfection. It “bears all things” and can hold its peace before the limitations of the loved one” CfAL 113.



Reflection:

I think of the diversity that exists among the members of our family, how everyone has unique gifts and a different path in life.



Within the family:

I will endeavor to rejoice in the success of others and recognize them with joy. I share with others what I would like to rejoice in today.



As a community or group:

Those who wish can share a characteristic of love, described in the Hymn to Charity, which struck them most and in which they find greater appreciation or difficulty.

Prayer

Lord, love is not quick-tempered;
remove from my lips words that may hurt.

Lord, love does not brood over injury;
give me a loving gaze.

Lord, love does not rejoice over wrongdoing;
open my heart to the needs of my brothers
and sisters.

Lord, love rejoices with the truth;
guide us in our steps towards You.

Lord, give us the joy of feeling loved by You
with a love that forgives all things,
hopes all things, and endures all things.

Only in this way will we be able to desire giving
your Love to every brother and sister.

Amen



3.

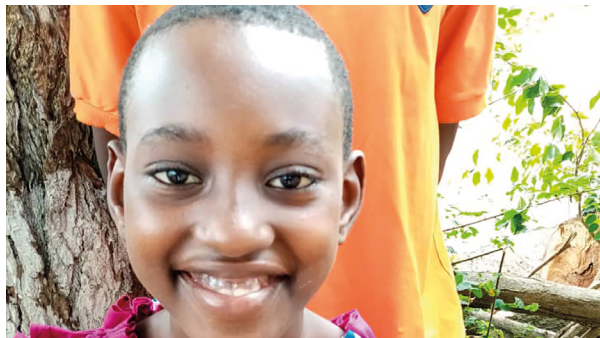
The power of love

SANTO PADRE

“It is the power of love that overcomes every threat, that helps us resist and remain strong and dependable. Love allows children to say of their own parents: I know mom and dad will always be there, I can count on them and I can trust their love!”.

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Here we see clearly the countercultural power of a love that is able to face whatever might threaten it.” AL 111.

“Those who know that they are trusted and appreciated can be open and hide nothing (...). On the other hand, a family marked by loving trust, come what may, helps its members to be themselves and spontaneously to reject deceit, falsehood, and lies” AL 115.





Reflection:

Let us reflect on how the Lord is in my and our family life, a steadfast and dependable presence.



Within the family:

Let us recall together the times when we have trusted one another, when we have been able to admit our own difficulty or to understand with love someone else's difficulty.



As a community or group:

Let us think of something we can do as a community at Sunday Mass so that everyone feels welcomed when they arrive and greeted when they leave.

Prayer

Blessed is the family that walks
in the presence of the Lord.

Blessed is the family based on love,
that thinks, speaks and acts with love.

Blessed is the family that prays together
to praise the Lord, to thank Him,
to entrust Him with every concern,
to ask Him for guidance
in the small and big choices.

Blessed is the family where disagreements
do not become a crisis,
but an opportunity to grow in dialogue,
in respect, in welcome,
in listening, in forgiveness.

Amen

Invitation to read *Amoris Laetitia*

“Love in the Marriage “

Amoris Laetitia, 89-119

Link to the Apostolic Exhortation *AMORIS LAETITIA*



Julie and Gérard with their children



Family Love: Vocation and Path to Holiness

Heavenly Father,

We come before You to praise You
and to thank You for the great gift of the family.
We pray to You for all families
consecrated by the Sacrament of Matrimony.
May they rediscover each day
the grace they have received,
and as small domestic Churches,
may they know how to witness to Your presence
and to the love with which Christ loves the Church.
We pray to You for all families faced with difficulty and suffering
caused by illness or circumstances which only You know.
Sustain them and make them aware
of the path to holiness upon which You call them,
so that they might experience Your infinite mercy
and find new ways to grow in love.
We pray to You for children and young people:
may they encounter You and respond joyfully
to the vocation You have in mind for them;
We pray for parents and grandparents: may they be aware
that they are signs of the fatherhood and motherhood of God
in caring for the children who, in body and spirit, You entrust to them;
and for the experience of fraternity
that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that each family
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church
as a call to become missionary disciples,
in the service of life and peace,
in communion with our priests, religious,
and all vocations in the Church.

Bless the World Meeting of Families.

Amen.

Official prayer for the *X World Meeting of Families*

22-26 June 2022

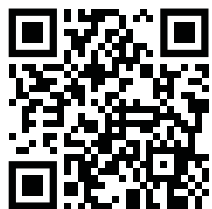
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Amoris Laetitia Family
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Guide n.5

Video n.5



**The 'foreverness'
and beauty of love**

The 'foreverness' and beauty of love

1.

Love is a dynamic process.

HOLY FATHER

«Marriage is a precious sign. It is the icon of God's love for us. This does not mean that the love spouses have for each other must be perfect... Nobody is perfect. But the love spouses have for each other is a dynamic process that progresses and improves over a lifetime. This is why marriage requires fidelity. Marriage lasts forever».

It is necessary «to accept marriage as a challenge to be taken up and fought for, reborn, renewed and reinvented. (...) If this love is to overcome all trials and remain faithful in the face of everything, it needs the gift of grace to strengthen and elevate it». AL 124

For this reason, in Christian marriage, «the Spirit which the Lord pours forth gives a new heart and renders man and woman capable of loving one another as Christ loved us». AL 120

Donato:

«God is faithful to his plan of Love. He trusts and relies on Christian married couples! The gift of His Love makes the 'forever' possible of two fragile, limited and wounded creatures, who are created 'in His image and likeness' and are therefore destined for eternity, that eternity that is God's 'forever'».

«Promising love forever is possible when we perceive a plan bigger than our own ideas and undertakings, a plan which sustains us and enables us to surrender our future entirely to the one we love». AL 124

«The love they pledge is greater than any emotion, feeling or state of mind. (...) They daily reaffirm their decision to love, to belong to one another, to share their lives and to continue loving and forgiving. Each progresses along the path of personal growth and development». AL 163





Invitation to reflect

Am I truly aware that the love between a husband and wife is much more than a feeling? That love requires my dedication, my will?



Family dynamics

Let us share how we feel each time we are able to overcome a relationship challenge within the family.



Community or group dynamics

Let us prepare a few prayers that can be read during Sunday Mass, to thank the Lord for the gift of each sacrament of matrimony which is a gift for the entire community.

Prayer

Thank you, Lord,
for the gift of the family.

Thank you also when it becomes challenging,
when it requires a struggle and we need to start over again and again,
because You are always at our side.

Thank you, because you love us just as we are
with all our imperfections.

Thank you, because your merciful gaze
encourages us to do better day by day.

We pray that you guide our steps
so that we might always follow you
wherever you lead us,
to reach the heights of love.

Make us strong
so as not to succumb to the thought of giving up.
And grant that we might know how to rejoice
over each small victory along the path of love.

Amen.

2.

Marriage protects love.**HOLY FATHER**

«Marriage demonstrates the seriousness of the commitment between two people who love each other. Not to get married means not to make that commitment public, that there are concerns, perhaps not being convinced, not being sure, who knows...»

«I would like to say to young people that (...) as a social institution, marriage protects and shapes a shared commitment to deeper growth in love». AL 131

«When love is expressed before others in the marriage contract, with all its public commitments, it clearly indicates and protects the 'yes' which those persons speak freely and unreservedly to each other. This 'yes' tells them that they can always trust one another, and that they will never be abandoned». AL 132

Francesca:

«Our forever is a gift above all. We as a couple are especially aware of this when we struggle in building our loving relationship, our intimacy, our dialogue. But it is precisely here that we see the intervention of Grace. Sometimes it happens, for example, that one of our hearts softens and seeks pardon of the other, or that a smile is enough to dissolve the coldness that may have crept into the relationship. Sometimes one of our children says something, makes a joke, or gives a hug that eases the tension between us. This is where we see Grace acting so that we can pick up the journey again...».

«Never let the day end without making peace in the family. 'And how am I going to make peace? By getting down on my knees? No! Just by a small gesture, a little something, and harmony within your family will be restored. Just a little caress, no words are necessary. But do not let the day end without making peace in your family». AL 104

«In the family, 'three words need to be used. I want to repeat this! Three words: 'Please', 'Thank you', 'Sorry'. In our families when we are not overbearing and ask: 'May I?'; in our families when we are not selfish and can say: 'Thank you!'; and in our families when someone realizes that he or she did something wrong and is able to say 'Sorry!', our family experiences peace and joy». AL 133



Invitation to reflect

Am I able to overcome my need to be silent and, when necessary, not to force others when they are silent?



Family dynamics

Let us write on three separate pieces of paper: “please”, “thank you”, and “sorry” (children can also help by drawing pictures). Choose together a place in the house to hang them.



Community or group dynamics

Let us organize a celebration with the renewal of marriage promises.



Prayer

Lord Jesus,
teach us not to be overbearing,
to know how to ask using “please”.

Remove selfishness from our hearts
so that we might know how to say “thank you”.

Grant us the humility to recognize
our mistakes and to know how to say “sorry”.

Amen.

3.

Love faces challenges.

HOLY FATHER

«Don't be afraid to fail: fear is the greatest obstacle to welcoming Christ and His plan for our lives! Be careful of fear!».

«Perfect families do not exist. (...) It is much healthier to be realistic about our limits, defects and imperfections, and to respond to the call to grow together, to bring love to maturity and to strengthen the union, come what may». AL 135

Donato and Francesca

Donato: «Attentive dialogue that involves listening, sharing, communion and even moments of silence allows the spirit to instruct our relationships, our instincts, emotions, desires, feelings... And all this allows Love to grow!».

Francesca: «Our large and small daily infidelities to each other and to our love as a couple show really clearly what we are made of and how illusory it is to think that the two of us are capable of building something that is everlasting, that will last “forever”. At that point, the only possibility we have as a couple is to allow God's Grace to mold us!».

«Dialogue is essential for experiencing, expressing and fostering love in marriage and family life. Yet it can only be the fruit of a long and demanding apprenticeship». AL 136

«Many disagreements between couples are not about important things. Mostly they are about trivial matters. What alters the mood, however, is the way things are said or the attitude with which they are said». AL 139





Invitation to reflect

Let us reflect on our capacity to dialogue and to listen. What difficulties do we encounter? What are our strengths?



Family dynamics

Let us make time for a family dialogue on a topic that is dear to us. Everyone should make an effort to listen to the others attentively, keeping silent even interiorly, to listen without making any noise in the heart or mind. (Cf. AL 137)



Community or group dynamics

Let us organize an event with young people and engaged couples, inviting married couples to witness about how their faith helped them face and overcome a particular fear or issue.

Prayer

Lord,
remove all fear from our hearts.
Help us trust your loving plan
for us, our family, our community.

Grant that every family might experience the joy
of Christ's presence within the walls of their home.

Help us be faithful to moments dedicated
to dialogue and listening.

Grant us the patience to accept each day
the large and small infidelities
of our love.

May our lives be a witness
to young people about how faith
can help overcome fear,
and can provide the strength
to make it through any difficulty
and to get better.

Amen.



4.

Love must be protected.

HOLY FATHER

«The Church really needs the courageous fidelity of married couples to the grace of the sacrament. Each couple should bear witness to the beauty of Christian marriage even through the hardships and challenges each day brings».

«Few human joys are as deep and thrilling as those experienced by two people who love one another and have achieved something as the result of a great, shared effort». AL 130
Marital love is not defended primarily by presenting indissolubility as a duty, but by helping it to grow ever stronger under the impulse of grace. Love grows only if we respond to God's grace through constant acts of love, acts of kindness that become ever more frequent, intense, generous, tender and cheerful. See AL 134

Leopaldi Family

«The family for us is 'fullness of life!' »

«Love (...) allows us to experience the happiness of giving, the nobility and grandeur of spending ourselves unstintingly, without asking to be repaid, purely for the pleasure of giving and serving». AL 94

«True love values the other person's achievements. It does not see him or her as a threat. It frees us from the sour taste of envy. It recognizes that everyone has different gifts and a unique path in life. So it strives to discover its own road to happiness, while allowing others to find theirs». AL 95





Invitation to reflect

Let us bring to mind some moments in which we experienced the happiness of giving ourselves completely, only out of love, renouncing our own will to self-affirmation.



Family dynamics

Let us do something in the family that communicates the unconditional love we have received and how it made us feel.



Community or group dynamics

"The family for us is...". Everyone is invited to respond in writing (or drawing) his or her response on a large poster that can be hung up in a common place.

Prayer

Jesus,
help us experience that
even when it is burdensome,
love always gives fullness of life.

As it was in your Holy Family in Nazareth,
grant also to our family and to every family on earth
*"the happiness of giving,
the nobility and grandeur
of spending ourselves unstintingly,
without asking to be repaid,
purely for the pleasure of giving and serving"*. (AL 94)

May our joy be contagious
and may we bear witness to others
that loving acts are always possible.

Amen.

Invitation to read Amoris Laetitia

The ‘foreverness’ and beauty of love

Amoris Laetitia, 120-164

Link to the Apostolic Exhortation *AMORIS LAETITIA*



Familial love: vocation and path to holiness

Holy Father,

we are here before You
to praise You and thank You for the great gift of the family.

We pray to You for families, consecrated in the Sacrament of Matrimony,
that each day they might rediscover the grace they have received,
and, as small domestic Churches,
they might know how to bear witness to Your Presence.
and the love with which Christ loves the Church.

We pray to You for families going through hardships and suffering,
illness, or problems only You know:
sustain them and make them aware
of the way of holiness to which You call them,
so that they might experience Your infinite mercy
and find new ways to grow in love.

We pray to You for children and young people,
so they can encounter You
and respond joyfully to the vocation You have in mind for them;
and for their parents and grandparents,
so they may be aware
that they are signs of the paternity and maternity of God:
in caring for their children who, in body and spirit,
You entrust to them, as well as in the experience of fraternity
that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that each family
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church
as a call to be active in evangelization,
in the service of life and peace,
in communion with the priests and with every state in life.

Bless the World Meeting of Families in Rome.
Amen.

Prayer for the *X World Meeting of Families*
22-26 June 2022

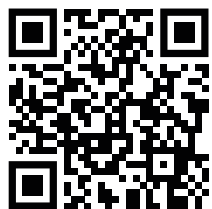
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Amoris Laetitia Family
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Fruitful Love

Fruitful Love

1

Love brightens the world's darkness

HOLY FATHER

“Love always gives life. Spousal love is not exhausted within the couple, but generates a family”.

*“Each new life ‘allows us to appreciate the **utterly gratuitous dimension of love**, which never ceases to amaze us. It is the beauty of being loved first: children are loved even before they arrive’. Here we see a reflection of the primacy of the love of God, who always takes the initiative”. AL 166*

*“By their witness as well as their words, families speak to others of Jesus. They pass on the faith, they arouse a desire for God and they reflect the beauty of the Gospel and its way of life. Christian marriages thus **enliven society by their witness of fraternity**, their social concern, their outspokenness on behalf of the underprivileged, their luminous faith and their active hope. Their fruitfulness expands and in countless ways makes God’s love present in society”. AL 184*

Enrico and Francesca

Enrico: “We are Enrico and Francesca. We’ve been married for 28 years and have 7 children. We are originally from Venice but are now missionaries in Bridgeport (USA). Love for life was instilled in us as children, since we both come from large families.”

Francesca: “When we were first married, after two miscarriages and two gynecological surgeries, the doctors told us I was sterile. Thanks to those 7 years in which we really suffered and felt sustained by the Church through our Neocatechumenal community and our catechists, we felt God was calling us to be fruitful, to open ourselves to life, to His plan for us. And so, we adopted our first son, Emanuele, in Russia”.

*“Some couples are unable to have children. We know that this can be a cause of real suffering for them. At the same time, we know that ‘marriage was not instituted solely for the procreation of children... Even in cases where, despite the intense desire of the spouses, there are no children, marriage still retains its character of being a whole manner and communion of life, and preserves its value and indissolubility’. So too, ‘**motherhood is not a solely biological reality, but is expressed in diverse ways**’”. AL 178*

*“We also do well to remember that procreation and adoption are not the only ways of experiencing the fruitfulness of love. Even large families are called to make their mark on society, finding **other expressions of fruitfulness** that in some way prolong the love that sustains them”. AL 181*



Invitation to reflect

We reflect on the primacy of God's love who always takes the initiative and expects nothing from us. Rather, he joyfully welcomes all of our acts of love, even the smallest. Let us think about how this is reflected in everyday life.



Family dynamic

Everyone thinks of simple acts of fraternity, writing them on different-colored construction paper. In the morning, each family member randomly chooses one to accomplish that day, tearing off a piece of the colored paper and carrying it as a reminder.



Community or group dynamic

Each person who would like to is invited to share an act of solidarity they received and explain it through a color they connect with that action (e.g., A colleague at work did something kind for me. I chose yellow because that kind gesture illuminated my day)

Prayer

Thank You, Lord,
that every baby that is born is a gift;
I thank You, that I, too, am a gift.

Thank You, for love
can paint the world with marvelous colors,
and for everyone is capable of acts of love.

Thank You, for calling us
to appreciate the various shades of the same color
that everyone can give,
thus adding color to the world.

Make us, Your instruments,
O Lord, so that Your Love,
in all of its shades,
might reach every one of Your sons and daughters on earth.

Amen.



2

Every child is a gift.

HOLY FATHER

“Life is generated and welcomed in the family. Every child that arrives is God’s gift! Every baby, in every case and in whatever situation, is to be welcomed because he or she is a child. Parents’ love is the means by which God shows His love. He awaits the birth of every baby. He accepts and welcomes each child as they are. I want to say to every expectant woman: you are God’s instrument to bring new life into the world”.

*“‘Children are a gift. Each one is unique and irreplaceable... We love our children because they are children, not because they are beautiful, or look or think like we do, or embody our dreams. We love them because they are children. A child is a child’. **The love of parents is the means by which God our Father shows his own love.** He awaits the birth of each child, accepts that child unconditionally, and welcomes him or her freely”. AL 170*

Francesca: “Welcoming this child healed us, restored us. We felt loved and forgiven by God. What happened after is pure grace. A few months after the adoption, I became pregnant and Giosué was born, then Miriam, Benedetta, Israel, Simon Pietro, and Natanaele, along with another 5 I miscarried. They are angels waiting for us in Heaven. Filled with gratitude and joy, we volunteered ourselves and were sent on mission as a family by Pope Benedict XVI in 2005.”

*Parents are entrusted with a precious gift: “For **God allows parents to choose the name by which he himself will call their child for all eternity**”. AL 166*

“This love is shown to them through the gift of their personal name, the sharing of language, looks of love and the brightness of a smile. In this way, [children] learn that the beauty of human relationships touches our soul, seeks our freedom, accepts others’ differences, recognizes and respects them as a partner in dialogue... Such is love, and it contains a spark of God’s love!” AL 172





Invitation to reflect

Reread the passages from *Amoris Laetitia*, underlining what impresses you the most. Those who wish can share.



Family dynamic

Parents can tell their children how they chose their names – that name God already uses for them and will use for all eternity.



Community or group dynamic

Create a small altar with a Bible, a lit candle and flowers and hang a poster in front of it. Everyone is invited to write their name in large letters on a sheet of paper. As each person goes and places their name on the poster, they can remember that God already calls them by that name and will do so forever. This activity can be done during a moment of prayer, accompanied by music or hymns.

Prayer

Psalms 139

Lord, you have probed me, you know me:
 you know when I sit and stand
 you understand my thoughts from afar,
 You sift through my travels and my rest;
 with all my ways you are familiar.
 Even before a word is on my tongue, Lord, you
 know it all.
 Behind and before you encircle me
 and rest your hand upon me.
 You formed my inmost being;
 you knit me in my mother's womb.
 I praise you,
 because I am awesomely made, wonderfully;
 wonderful are your works!
 I know this very well.



2

“I will never forget you”.

HOLY FATHER

“Adoption is a Christian choice. To adopt and give a family to someone who does not have one is an act of love by which a man and a woman become mediators of God’s love. Through them, God says: ‘Even if your mother forgets you, I, instead, will never forget you’”.

*“The choice of adoption and foster care expresses a particular kind of fruitfulness in the marriage experience, and not only in cases of infertility. (...) Correctly understood, [this choice] makes people aware that **children**, whether natural, adoptive or in foster care, are persons in their own right who need to be accepted, loved and cared for, and not just brought into this world. The best interests of the child should always underlie any decision in adoption and foster care”. AL 180*

Enrico:

“On mission with our children, we live like a normal family, bearing witness to God’s love to the people we meet on our way, proclaiming through our lives that Christ is risen and has conquered death”.

“No family can be fruitful if it sees itself as overly different or ‘set apart’.” “Jesus’ own family, so full of grace and wisdom, did not appear unusual or different from others. They were an ordinary family, close to others, a normal part of the community.” Cf AL 182

*“In addition to the small circle of the couple and their children, there is the **larger family**, which cannot be overlooked”. “This larger family should provide love and support to teenage mothers, children without parents, single mothers left to raise children, persons with disabilities needing particular affection and closeness, young people struggling with addiction, the unmarried, separated or widowed who are alone, and the elderly and infirm who lack the support of their children”. AL 196-197*





Invitation to reflect

Think of a person among your acquaintances who needs to be “adopted” at this moment, that is, someone in need of receiving God’s paternal or maternal love through you.



Family dynamic

Parents can explain to their children the value of adoption and how every family is called to “adopt”, that is, to be open to welcome and to love all of God’s children who surround us.



Community or group dynamic

As a community, organize a meeting on the fruitfulness of family love and the value of adoption, of taking foster children in, of being a family open to welcoming and loving all of God’s children.

Prayer

Psalm 8

O Lord, our Lord,
how awesome is your name
through all the earth!

I will sing of your majesty above the heavens
with the mouths of babies and infants.
You have established a buwark against your
foes, to silence enemy and avenger.

When I see your heavens, the work of your
fingers,
the moon and the stars that you set in place—
What is man that you are mindful of him,

and a son of man that you care for him?
Yet you have made him little less than a god,
crowned him with glory and honor,
You have given him rule over the works of
your hands,
put all things at his feet:
All sheep and oxen,
even the beasts of the field,
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatever swims the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Lord,
how awesome is your name through all the
earth!

Invitation to read *Amoris Laetitia*

“Love made fruitful”

Amoris Laetitia, 165-198

Link to the Apostolic Exhortation *AMORIS LAETITIA*



Da Ponte Family, Venice (Italy) - Bridgeport (USA)



Familial love: vocation and path to holiness

Holy Father,

we are here before You
to praise You and thank You for the great gift of the family.
We pray to You for families, consecrated in the Sacrament of Matrimony,
that each day they might rediscover the grace they have received,
and, as small domestic Churches,
they might know how to witness to Your Presence.
and the love with which Christ loves the Church.
We pray to You for families going through difficulty and suffering,
from illness, or from problems only You know:
sustain them and make them aware
of the way of holiness to which You call them,
so that they might experience Your infinite mercy
and find new ways to grow in love.
We pray to You for children and young people,
so they can encounter You
and respond joyfully to the vocation You have in mind for them;
and for their parents and grandparents,
so they may be aware
that they are signs of the paternity and maternity of God:
in caring for their children who, in body and spirit,
You entrust to them, as well as in the experience of fraternity
that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that each family
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church
as a call to be active in evangelization,
in the service of life and peace,
in communion with the priests and with every state in life.

Bless the World Meeting of Families in Rome.
Amen.

Official Prayer for the *X World Meeting of Families*
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Called to an ecclesial mission

Called to an ecclesial mission

1

Joyful witness of the Gospel of the family

Stella Josiane (daughter)

«The best way to live the Gospel in the family is to be witnesses to each other. To give others the joy of imitating you».

«We need to find the right language, arguments and forms of witness that can help us reach the hearts of young people, appealing to their capacity for generosity, commitment, love and even heroism, and in this way inviting them to take up the challenge of marriage with enthusiasm and courage». AL 40

HOLY FATHER

«What pastoral challenges face the Church in accompanying families? Christian families are the principal subject of family ministry, thanks to the sacrament of matrimony. Every family can be the first witnesses of the joy of the Gospel!».

«Christian families, by the grace of the sacrament of matrimony, are the principal agents of the family apostolate, above all through 'their joy-filled witness as domestic churches'. "It is important that people experience the Gospel of the family as a joy that 'fills hearts and lives', because in Christ we have been 'set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness' »». AL 200

«Enabling families to take up their role as active agents of the family apostolate calls for 'an effort at evangelization and catechesis inside the family' »». AL 200





Invitation to reflection

“The Gospel of the family is joy”: have I experienced that this joy can be present even when life presents difficulties? Recall a moment in life in which a difficulty revealed itself to be a positive motive for joy and hope.



Family dynamic

What are the values that are at the basis of our family life? Talk together about these values and write them down. Then they can be hung up throughout the house.



Community or group dynamic

In what way can our community respond to Pope Francis' invitation to form Christian families to become joyous and evangelizing families?

Prayer

Lord,
you conceived and created the family
as a place of joy.
Teach us to enjoy your gifts
even on the most difficult days,
so as to always
offer a smile,
give someone a hug,
listen to someone who needs to get something off their chest,
console someone in pain.

Thank you, Lord,
for the many times we were
embraced, consoled and heard.

Amen.

2

Families are necessary to show the young the Gospel of love

Josée Christiane (mother)

«Proclaiming the Gospel means that the message received needs to fill our hearts and our entire lives with joy.».

HOLY FATHER

«A generic concern for the family in large pastoral projects is not enough. We need a new missionary thrust: we cannot stop at theory, but we need to grapple with people's concrete problems. Preparing young people for matrimony is a pillar for evangelizing families».

*«I encourage Christian communities to recognize the great benefit that they themselves receive from **supporting engaged couples** as they grow in love. (...) Those couples are “a valuable resource because, (...) they can help renew the fabric of the whole ecclesial body. Their special form of friendship can prove contagious and foster the growth of friendship and fraternity in the Christian community of which they are a part” ». AL 207*

*«Those best prepared for marriage are probably those who **learned what Christian marriage is from their own parents**, who chose each other unconditionally and daily renew this decision». AL 208.*

Giorgiana (daughter)

«To live the Gospel means finding the time to live well together in love, by sharing and in unity».

*«Pastoral initiatives aimed at **helping married couples to grow in love and in the Gospel of the family** also help their children, by preparing them for their future married life». AL 208*

*«**Love needs time and space**; everything else is secondary. Time is needed to talk things over, to embrace leisurely, to share plans, to listen to one other and gaze in each other's eyes, to appreciate one another and to build a stronger relationship. Sometimes the frenetic pace of our society and the pressures of the workplace create problems. At other times, the problem is the lack of quality time together». AL 224*



Invitation to reflection

“We are called to help sow seeds; the rest is God’s work” (cf AL 200). We can reflect on what we do to live well together. Are we succeeding? Is there something we want to change? What can we begin with?



Family dynamic

We can reflect and decide together if there is something that can become secondary in order to spend some regular quality time together in the family.



Community or group dynamic

Plan a romantic evening for the engaged couples in the community, offering dinner or refreshments. Ask them to turn off their cell phones, and invite them to spend the evening in dialogue as a couple. At the end of the evening, invite them to spend a moment in prayer together, taking turns praying for the other.



Prayer

Lord,
bless our home,
may it might be a place of love and acceptance.

Grant us the awareness
that to offer another the warmth of our family
is not a task, but a joyful response
to Your desire that
the Gospel of the family
be proclaimed to everyone on earth.

Amen.

3

Preparing young people for married life

HOLY FATHER

«There is a catechetical process that prepares not only for the celebration of Matrimony, but for married life. We must review the preparation for marriage to help young people, beginning in their childhood, to discover that matrimony is a true vocation».

*«With the help of missionary families (...) and a variety of pastoral resources, ways should also be found to offer a remote preparation that, by example and good advice, can help their love to grow and mature. (...) **Learning to love someone does not happen automatically**, nor can it be taught in a workshop just prior to the celebration of marriage. For every couple, marriage preparation begins at birth. What they received from their family should prepare them to know themselves and to make a full and definitive commitment». AL 208*

*«"It is not great knowledge, but rather **the ability to feel and relish things interiorly that contents and satisfies the soul**". (...) Marriage preparation should be a kind of 'initiation' to the sacrament of matrimony, providing couples with the help they need to receive the sacrament worthily and to make a solid beginning of life as a family». AL 207*

Jules José (father)

«So, it is desirable that pastoral ministers be formed with respect to the tremendous changes and the great questions that regard the family today; a formation that responds concretely to these questions and changes».

*«There is a need for "**a more adequate formation...** of priests, deacons, men and women religious, catechists and other pastoral workers". (...) Seminarians should receive a more extensive interdisciplinary, and not merely doctrinal, formation in the areas of engagement and marriage. (...) It is helpful for seminarians to combine time in the seminary with time spent in parishes. There they can have greater contact with the concrete realities of family life, since in their future ministry they will largely be dealing with families». Cf AL 202-203*

«Professionals, especially those with practical experience, help keep pastoral initiatives grounded in the real situations and concrete concerns of families. "Courses and programmes, planned specifically for pastoral workers, can be of assistance by integrating the premarital preparation programme into the broader dynamic of ecclesial life". Good pastoral training is important "especially in light of particular emergency situations arising from cases of domestic violence and sexual abuse". All this in no way diminishes, but rather complements, the fundamental value of spiritual direction, the rich spiritual treasures of the Church, and sacramental Reconciliation». AL 204



Invitation to reflection

Reflect on the people in your life who have provided a positive witness regarding married life and thank the Lord for giving you those experiences.



Family dynamic

Read together a part of the Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit* on the proclamation of the Gospel to young people and talk about it together (e.g., numbers 44, 257, 264).



Community or group dynamic

Propose a moment of prayer for young people and their vocation. Those who would like can write a prayer on a piece of paper and place it into a basket. Those who enter the Church can take one of these prayers and lift the prayer of a brother or sister up to the Father.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
we pray for young people,
that they might experience
within their families
the power of your love.

We pray for engaged couples,
may they understand that marriage
requires creative work
undertaken day after day.

We pray for the families within our community,
May they witness
a love that is strong, solid, joyful.

Amen.



4

Reaching every family

HOLY FATHER

«The formative journey should continue at least during the first 10 years of married life so that families feel accompanied by their priests – and by other families as well – to face both the joys and the difficulties of their daily lives, and not get discouraged. Something to remember always is that every crisis can be a moment to renew in one's own heart a new yes that makes love mature.

«Another great challenge of marriage preparation is to help couples realize that marriage is not something that happens once for all. (...) Their gaze now has to be directed to the future that, with the help of God's grace, they are daily called to build. For this very reason, neither spouse can expect the other to be perfect. Each must set aside all illusions and accept the other as he or she actually is: an unfinished product, needing to grow, a work in progress. (...) This fact needs to be realistically presented to newly married couples from the outset, so that they can grasp that (...) by saying 'I do', they embark on a journey». AL 218

Jules José (father):

«Today, couples need to feel the proximity of the Church through her pastoral workers: a closeness that reassures, a nearness that knows how to respond to their concerns».

Josée Christiane (mother)

«We need to hear a message that is reassuring in the face of uncertainty».

«The initial years of marriage are a vital and sensitive period during which couples become more aware of the challenges and meaning of married life. Consequently, pastoral accompaniment needs to go beyond the actual celebration of the sacrament. (...) The parish is a place where such experienced couples can help younger couples. (...) Emphasis should also be given to the importance of family spirituality, prayer and participation in the Sunday Eucharist, and couples encouraged to meet regularly to promote growth in their spiritual life and solidarity in the concrete demands of life». AL 223

HOLY FATHER

«As a Church, we want to reach every family and accompany them toward the discovery of a better way to overcome the difficulties they encounter».



Invitation to reflect

What suggestions would you like to give engaged couples, young married couples, or a couple in difficulty? Are you willing to direct these suggestions first of all to yourself?



Family dynamic

Invite a newly married or engaged couple over for dinner to cultivate a friendship with them.

Community or group dynamic

How can we organize “listening sessions” in which married or engaged couples can meet with professionals, or even to be welcomed into families who are open to accepting and listening to them?

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
grant to our community
the gift of your Holy Spirit
so that we might find ways
to “*reach every family*
and accompany them toward the discovery of a better way
to overcome the difficulties they encounter”.*

May the door of our house
always be open to share joyful moments,
to provide support in difficult moments,
to pray to the Father
together with other families.

Amen.

**Pope Francis*



Dobo family, Democratic Republic of Congo



**APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION
*AMORIS LAETITIA***



Invitation to read *Amoris Laetitia*

“Some Pastoral Perspectives” *Amoris Laetitia*, 199- 258

Link to the Apostolic Exhortation *AMORIS LAETITIA*



Familial love: vocation and path to holiness

Holy Father,

we are here before You
to praise You and thank You for the great gift of the family.
We pray to You for families, consecrated in the Sacrament of Matrimony,
that each day they might rediscover the grace they have received,
and, as small domestic Churches,
they might know how to witness to Your Presence.
and the love with which Christ loves the Church.
We pray to You for families going through difficulty and suffering,
from illness, or from problems only You know:
sustain them and make them aware
of the way of holiness to which You call them,
so that they might experience Your infinite mercy
and find new ways to grow in love.
We pray to You for children and young people,
so they can encounter You
and respond joyfully to the vocation You have in mind for them;
and for their parents and grandparents,
so they may be aware
that they are signs of the paternity and maternity of God:
in caring for their children who, in body and spirit,
You entrust to them, as well as in the experience of fraternity
that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that each family
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church
as a call to be active in evangelization,
in the service of life and peace,
in communion with the priests and with every state in life.

Bless the World Meeting of Families.
Amen.

Official Prayer for the *X World Meeting of Families*
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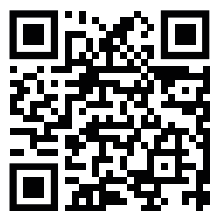
Amoris Laetitia Family
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Video n.8



**Educating children:
a call, a challenge, a joy**

Educating children: a call, a challenge, a joy

1

Educating to face today's challenges

Massimo:

"We are Massimo and Patrizia, an Italian missionary family, married for 25 years with 12 children. We live in Maastricht, Holland as itinerant missionaries".

Javier:

"We are Javier and Araceli. We have 10 children and are expecting our 11th. We are missionaries in St Petersburg, Russia".

The Creator made man and woman share in the work of his creation and, at the same time, he made them instruments of his love, entrusting to them the responsibility for the future of mankind, through the transmission of human life". AL 81

HOLY FATHER

"The family has a natural vocation to educate children. Do not give up having children for fear of not being capable of educating and preparing them to face life's challenges and responsibilities! To be parents requires love and the desire to bring out the best in others".

"Families cannot help but be places of support, guidance and direction, however much they may have to rethink their methods and discover new resources". AL 260

"Were maturity merely the development of something already present in our genetic code, not much would have to be done. (...) Inevitably, each child will surprise us with ideas and projects born of that freedom, which challenge us to rethink our own ideas. This is a good thing". AL 262

Patrizia:

"This is what we try to do even though we are weak: bring them with us to the Eucharist from the time they are babies, pray in the morning and evening with them, pray before meals, and especially on Sunday, having an interactive, festive celebration at home in which their father asks each of them: "How is the Word of God illuminating your life?" Through this dialogue, the children get used to growing up knowing that God is present in and acts in their lives".

"Raising children calls for an orderly process of handing on the faith. This is made difficult by current lifestyles, work schedules and the complexity of today's world, where

*many people keep up a frenetic pace just to survive. Even so, **the home must continue to be the place where we learn to appreciate the meaning and beauty of the faith, to pray and to serve our neighbour**". AL 287*



Invitation to reflect

We experience every day how dialogue is fundamental in every relationship. In my relationship with Jesus: how fundamental is dialogue with Him? Among the many words I hear during the day, am I able to find time to listen to the Word of Jesus?



Family activity

We find time in the evening to spend as a family talking together about the day. As parents, let's pay particular attention during dinner to listen to what our children talk about.



Community or group activity

We could ask families to open their domestic Church to pray together along with other families.

Prayer

Lord,
teach us to make our families
places where our children
experience a lived faith.

Help us not to lose our trust in your help
to overcome the challenges
that today's society places on us.

Send your Holy Spirit
over every family
so that our hearts might be open
to recognising how you manifest yourself alive
even in our small domestic Church.

Amen



Massimo e Patrizia Paoloni

2

Saying yes to Christ

HOLY FATHER

“Fatherhood and motherhood are irreplaceable roles. Motherhood shows how to bring love and protection to human weakness. Fatherhood reveals unexplored horizons of life to children and establishes the foundation of the moral life that allows them to courageously form their own life project. But there is more. Every mother reminds her own children that the source of their being is a Father with a capital “F”, that there is a longing for God. This awareness generates faith. The heart of the question is in fact creating the condition in which the new generations can say yes to Christ, to allow God to manifest Himself in their lives and lead them by the hand”.

“Faith is God’s gift. [...]. This means that we need to ask God to act in their hearts, in places where we ourselves cannot reach. [...] We know that we do not own the gift, but that its care is entrusted to us. Yet our creative commitment is itself an offering which enables us to cooperate with God’s plan”. AL 287

“Spiritual experience is not imposed but freely proposed. It is essential that children actually see that, for their parents, prayer is something truly important. Hence moments of family prayer and acts of devotion can be more powerful for evangelization than any catechism class or sermon”. AL 288

Javier:

“We know we are handing on the faith to them, teaching them to live an essential mission as Christians... So, they have learned to live with God since they were little. They have learned they can forgive, that they can love in various ways, as God loves, that they can discover different ways to live. We have chosen to live within the Church and we desire this for them as well. In our family, we pray united together, knowing that the Lord is in our midst and that He is helping us, sustaining us, and encouraging us each day”.

“Couples and parents should be properly appreciated as active agents in catechesis. [...] Family catechesis is of great assistance as an effective method in training young parents to be aware of their mission as the evangelisers of their own family”. AL 287

“Handing on the faith presumes that parents themselves genuinely trust God, seek him and sense their need for him, for only in this way does ‘one generation laud your works to another, and declare your mighty acts’ (Ps 144:4) and ‘fathers make known to children your faithfulness’ (Is 38:19). This means that we need to ask God to act in their hearts, in places where we ourselves cannot reach”. AL 287



Invitation to reflect

Rereading the HOLY FATHER'S words, let us reflect on our way of being a father and mother. What actions can concretely convey to our children that we have chosen to found our lives in God?



Family activity

Let us share with our children why we have chosen to live in the Church.



Community or group activity

How could we raise awareness and train parents to be catechists?

How can our community encourage and appreciate catechesis done by parents with their own children or within the community?

Prayer

*We praise you, Lord, for the gift of faith.
Thank you for the gift of Baptism,
that made our children Your children.*

*We pray that
our witness
might direct our children
to You as the source of the choices
we make each day.*

*You are the rock
on which we have chosen to build
our life and our family.*

*You are the Father who has always desired them,
who loves them with a Love that knows how to provide
the protection of a mother and the courage of a father.*

Amen.



Famiglia Martinez

3

Education in the area of affectivity

HOLY FATHER

“In an age in which sexuality is often reduced to mere consumption, to the use of others, families have the task to educate their children in the area of affectivity and sexual responsibility, respectful of the dignity of the person”.

“But who speaks of these things today? Who is capable of taking young people seriously? Who helps them to prepare seriously for a great and generous love? Where sex education is concerned, much is at stake”. AL 284

“A sexual education that fosters a healthy sense of modesty has immense value, however much some people nowadays consider modesty a relic of a bygone era. Modesty is a natural means whereby we defend our personal privacy and prevent ourselves from being turned into objects to be used”. AL 282

Massimo:

“We are always attentive to the dangers of the world, especially regarding the use of new technologies. We are very aware of the dangers hidden behind them so we are very vigilant. We try to protect them – we encourage them to use the computer in common spaces. We give them a cell phone only when they become adults. We especially encourage them to practice the virtues of chastity, humility, sincerity – not moralistically – but sharing our personal experience with them, because we have seen that the Lord has helped us in our lives and he will help them too”.

“The educational process that occurs between parents and children can be helped or hindered by the increasing sophistication of the communications and entertainment media. When well used, these media can be helpful. [...] We know that sometimes they can keep people apart rather than together, as when at dinnertime everyone is surfing on a mobile phone, or when one spouse falls asleep waiting for the other who spends hours playing with an electronic device. [...] We cannot ignore the risks that these new forms of communication pose for children and adolescents; at times they can foster apathy and disconnect from the real world. This ‘technological disconnect’ exposes them more easily to manipulation by those who would invade their private space with selfish interests”. AL 278





Invitation to reflect

How do I use technology and how are we educating our children to use it?

In this very challenging area, how are we educating our children about affectivity and respect for their own bodies?



Family/community activity

Let's initiate some **proposals to educate ourselves in the use of technology**.

For example, we can plan some down time from television and cell phones:

- meal times
- one evening per week (during which we can organise something fun to do together)
- during an outing together

Let's make some **proposals for the positive use of our devices**, for example:

- that our children teach an elderly person how to use a computer/tablet
- offer our time to listen to a person who is far away and lives alone, through a video chat

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
help us to educate our children that waiting
is a time in which desire
takes shape and becomes the conscious choice
of the gift of self.

Help us to be vigilant
without being oppressive,
so they can become capable of making
free and autonomous choices.

Amen



4

Teaching how to wait and respect for the body

HOLY FATHER

“This way, pastoral care should help families internalize essential human values such as modesty, respect for the differences between men and women, awareness and acceptance of the body, the meaning of the total gift of self in marriage, the value of engagement as a period of maturation in view of marriage”.

“It is not easy to approach the issue of sex education in an age when sexuality tends to be trivialized and impoverished. It can only be seen within the broader framework of an education for love, for mutual self-giving. In such a way, the language of sexuality would not be sadly impoverished but illuminated and enriched. The sexual urge can be directed through a process of growth in self-knowledge and self-control capable of nurturing valuable capacities for joy and for loving encounter”. AL 280

“The important thing is to teach them sensitivity to different expressions of love, mutual concern and care, loving respect and deeply meaningful communication. All of these prepare them for an integral and generous gift of self that will be expressed, following a public commitment, in the gift of their bodies. Sexual union in marriage will thus appear as a sign of an all-inclusive commitment, enriched by everything that has preceded it”. AL 283

“An appreciation of our body as male or female is also necessary for our own self-awareness in an encounter with others different from ourselves. In this way we can joyfully accept the specific gifts of another man or woman, the work of God the Creator, and find mutual enrichment”. AL 285





Family activity

Once a week/month, let's organize a movie night, choosing a film with our children, including one containing the topic of human love [affectivity]. Then, let's talk about it together.



Community or group activity

Movie forum: let's choose a series of films that deal with the topics of affectivity, engagement, the relationship of a couple. Let's invite the young people of our community to watch the films followed by a moment of sharing and reflection, with experts and people who can give their personal witness.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
help us to foster in our children
a sense of purity toward their body,
that will lead them to accept it,
take care of it and respect it.

Help us know how to express
respect for others
through our actions,
beginning with our spouses.

Make our families
places of human and Christian growth
where each person's beauty might unfold.

Amen

Invitation to read *Amoris Laetitia*

“Towards a Better Education of Children”

Amoris Laetitia, Chapter Seven, 259-290

Link to the Apostolic Exhortation *AMORIS LAETITIA*



Familial love: vocation and path to holiness

Holy Father,
we are here before You
to praise You and thank You for the great gift of the family.
We pray to You for families, consecrated in the Sacrament of Matrimony,
that each day they might rediscover the grace they have received,
and, as small domestic Churches,
they might know how to witness to Your Presence.
and the love with which Christ loves the Church.
We pray to You for families going through difficulty and suffering,
from illness, or from problems only You know:
sustain them and make them aware
of the way of holiness to which You call them,
so that they might experience Your infinite mercy
and find new ways to grow in love.
We pray to You for children and young people,
so they can encounter You
and respond joyfully to the vocation You have in mind for them;
and for their parents and grandparents,
so they may be aware
that they are signs of the paternity and maternity of God:
in caring for their children who, in body and spirit,
You entrust to them, as well as in the experience of fraternity
that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that each family
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church
as a call to be active in evangelization,
in the service of life and peace,
in communion with the priests and with every state in life.

Bless the World Meeting of Families in Rome.
Amen.

Official Prayer for the *10th World Meeting of Families*
22-26 June 2022

www.amorislaetitia.va



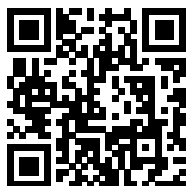
Amoris Laetitia Family
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Accompanying weakness

Accompanying weakness

1

Weakness

HOLY FATHER

«Today, families are severely tried by weakness. We are all fragile – and separation, divorce, and living together are now a reality that many families in the world deal with. **The Church has the task of going out to meet those who want to remain near God** to help them to transform their failures and sufferings into opportunities to journey toward the fullness of the Gospel».

«Whatever the case, all these situations require a constructive response [...]. That is how Jesus treated the Samaritan woman (cf. Jn 4:1-26): he addressed her desire for true love, in order to free her from the darkness in her life and to bring her to the full joy of the Gospel». AL 294

«Jesus wants a Church attentive to the goodness the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness». AL 308

«Naturally, every effort should be made to encourage the development of an enlightened conscience, formed and guided by the responsible and serious discernment of one's pastor, and to encourage an ever-greater trust in God's grace». AL 303

Likesya Family

«Families who are weak need to be approached with visits, exchanges of opinions, to be understood and they need a spiritual type of advice that restores trust in themselves».

Jesus «expects us [...] to enter into the reality of other people's lives and to know the power of tenderness». AL 308

«The Gospel itself tells us not to judge or condemn [...] we are called to show mercy because *mercy was first shown to us*». AL 308, 310



Invitation to reflect

Our family has its weaknesses too. Am I able to recognize the «goodness the Holy Spirit sows in the midst of human weakness»?



Family activity

Let's take some time one evening and, together with our children, try to list what our weaknesses might be regarding how we relate to one another, and how we might equip ourselves to face them.



Community or group activity

Let's propose watching a film on resilience (knowing how to overcome difficulties in order to give new impetus to one's own life). After watching it, a sharing in small groups can be proposed: what does this film have to say about my life?

Prayer

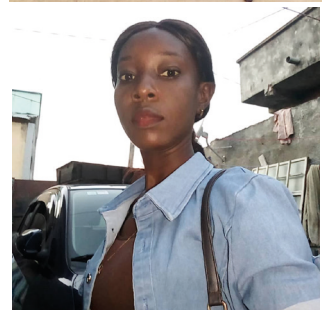
Lord,
help us understand that our limitations
are not an obstacle for your mercy.

Help us not reject
the ideals of the Gospel
because they seem difficult to achieve.

Grant us your Holy Spirit
so that our failures and sufferings
can be transformed into opportunities
to improve as we
continue along our journey
toward the fullness of the Gospel.

Make us capable of accepting the goodness
You sow in the midst of our weaknesses.

Amen.



2

Discernment

HOLY FATHER

«**Pastoral care for families** knows how to welcome, accompany, discern and integrate into the ecclesial community, not with simple and trite recipes, but with a vision that truly knows how to discern and distinguish situations».

*«The Church must **accompany with attention and care** the weakest of her children, who show signs of a wounded and troubled love, by **restoring in them hope and confidence**, like the beacon of a lighthouse in a port or a torch carried among the people to enlighten those who have lost their way or who are in the midst of a storm». AL 291*

Likesya Family

«No family should be excluded from the community, no matter what the problem. Marriage should bring happiness, not unhappiness. The community should build a support system that demonstrates to these families the importance of protecting and leading their children toward a better future.»

«Children should understand that God has a marvelous plan for them. This conviction gives them the courage to overcome the wounds caused by their parents and it gives them the certainty that «even if my father or mother abandons me, God will never abandon me». God bless all the families in the world.»

*«It is a matter of [...] **helping each person find his or her proper way of participating in the ecclesial community** and thus to experience [...] whether in social service, prayer meetings or another way that his or her own initiative, together with the discernment of the parish priest». AL 297*

*Such persons need to feel [...] able to live and grow **as living members of the Church** and experience her as a mother who welcomes them always, **who takes care of them with affection and encourages them** along the path of life and the Gospel. This integration is also needed in the care and Christian upbringing of their children, who ought to be considered most important». AL 299*



Invitation to reflect

Reflect on how merciful your love is: how disposed are you to understand, welcome, forgive, hope?

Family activity

We can propose an evening together to other families to share a «small step forward» taken during the day. Each person can ask others to pray for a particular difficulty.

Community or group activity

Under the guidance of the pastor or someone in community leadership, think of offering each person the possibility of putting themselves at the service of the community or of renewing their particular form of service. This might be done on a particular feast day.

Prayer

Lord,
help us understand
the problems and weakness of our brothers and sisters.

Help us know how to open the door of our home
and our hearts
to those who are weaker, those in difficulty,
so they might feel welcomed, heard, understood.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit
so we might know how to present to others
that mercy we first
received from You.

Amen.



3

Small steps

HOLY FATHER

«In no way should the Church give up **proposing the full ideal of marriage**: today, more than a ministry addressing failures, we must carry out a pastoral care that **supports marriages and prevents them from breaking!** There are so many small steps people can take that and **God is always pleased with small steps**».

«A lukewarm attitude, any kind of relativism, or an undue reticence in proposing that ideal, would be a lack of fidelity to the Gospel and also of love on the part of the Church for young people themselves. To show understanding in the face of exceptional situations never implies dimming the light of the fuller ideal, or proposing less than what Jesus offers to the human being». AL 307

Likesya Family

«This spiritual guidance consists in helping families understand that crises in marriage do not last forever and do not necessarily lead to breaking up. That is why it is imperative to integrate them so that they can rediscover how to dialogue, forgive each other and the joy of love.»

«Discernment must help to find possible ways of responding to God and growing in the midst of limits. By thinking that everything is black and white, we sometimes close off the way of grace and of growth, and discourage paths of sanctification which give glory to God. Let us remember that 'a small step, in the midst of great human limitations, can be more pleasing to God than a life which appears outwardly in order, but moves through the day without confronting great difficulties' ». AL 305





Invitation to reflect

In the face of the temptation to say, «I'm made this way, I can't do anything about it», reflect on what small, possible step you can take to overcome one of your weaknesses.

Family activity

Let's create an opportunity to be with our children and listen to them, asking them how they see our marriage. It could even be an opportunity for us to understand how they see us and what type of example we are giving them.

Community or group activity

Let's organize a meeting for the community regarding the risks and dangers that threaten our families today and about how they can be avoided as a community.

Prayer

Lord,
help us to bear witness
that faithfulness is renewing the same choice each
day.

Help us understand that love
is never a goal that is completely attained,
but always presents new exigencies.

Accompany and guide
every little step
we are able to take
to build up our love.

Amen.

4

The balm of mercy

HOLY FATHER

«In every situation, it is important to use the balm of mercy to soothe wounds and to make people feel welcome, **while respecting the truth**. It is necessary **to teach how to forgive, to understand, to hope.**»

Merciful love should be *«the mindset which should prevail in the Church and lead us to «open our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society». AL 312*

« 'The way of the Church is not to condemn anyone for ever; it is to pour out the balm of God's mercy on all those who ask for it with a sincere heart...' [...] Consequently, there is a need 'to avoid judgements which do not take into account the complexity of various situations' and 'to be attentive, by necessity, to how people experience distress because of their condition' ». AL 296

«The Church's pastors, in proposing to the faithful the full ideal of the Gospel and the Church's teaching, must also help them to treat the weak with compassion, avoiding aggravation or unduly harsh or hasty judgements. The Gospel itself tells us not to judge or condemn». AL 308



Invitation to reflect

In my living environment, is there someone in particular toward whom the Lord is asking me to use the balm of mercy?

Family activity

«To forgive, to understand, to hope»: every member of the family can share something they have forgiven during the day, or something for which they were forgiven; how they succeeded in understanding, or how they felt they were understood; a moment in which they trusted in God.

Community or group activity

Let's prepare some prayers that we can read during the Holy Mass:

- Lord, teach us to forgive...
- Lord, teach us to understand...
- Lord, teach us to hope...

Prayer

Lord,
help us to believe in love
even in times of trial.

Help us never give up
fighting for our family,
even when conflict makes us suffer,
when forgiving seems difficult,
distant or impossible to achieve.

With You, nothing is impossible:
Your mercy comforts us,
Your Word guides us,
Your presence gives us hope.

Amen.

Invitation to read *Amoris Laetitia*

«**Accompanying weakness**»

Amoris Laetitia, Chapter VIII, 291-312

Link to the Apostolic Exhortation *AMORIS LAETITIA*



Familial love: vocation and path to holiness

Holy Father,
we are here before You
to praise You and thank You for the great gift of the family.
We pray to You for families, consecrated in the Sacrament of Matrimony,
that each day they might rediscover the grace they have received,
and, as small domestic Churches,
they might know how to witness to Your Presence.
and the love with which Christ loves the Church.
We pray to You for families going through difficulty and suffering,
from illness, or from problems only You know:
sustain them and make them aware
of the way of holiness to which You call them,
so that they might experience Your infinite mercy
and find new ways to grow in love.
We pray to You for children and young people,
so they can encounter You
and respond joyfully to the vocation You have in mind for them;
and for their parents and grandparents,
so they may be aware
that they are signs of the paternity and maternity of God:
in caring for their children who, in body and spirit,
You entrust to them, as well as in the experience of fraternity
that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that each family
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church
as a call to be active in evangelization,
in the service of life and peace,
in communion with the priests and with every state in life.

Bless the World Meeting of Families in Rome.
Amen.

Official Prayer for *the 10th World Meeting of Families*
22-26 June 2022

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Amoris Laetitia Family
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Famiglia Amoris Laetitia
Anno 2021 - 2022

Guide n.10

Video n.10



The Spirituality of Marriage and the Family

The Spirituality of Marriage and the Family

1

Jesus lives in the family

Holy Father

“Every family wants to live in peace, in an environment in which everyone feels loved and understood. How can a family create a welcoming atmosphere? The family does not consist only of husband and wife, children, because **Jesus dwells in the marriage**. The Lord lives in the family truly and concretely. **He is communicated through acts of love** – concrete gestures **between husband and wife, between parents and children**. Caresses in a family are so important. When a family lacks caresses, we can say that winter has arrived in that family, an existential winter”.

“God’s love is proclaimed ‘through the living and concrete word whereby a man and the woman express their conjugal love’. The two are thus mutual reflections of that divine love which comforts with a word, a look, a helping hand, a caress, an embrace. For this reason ‘to want to form a family is to resolve to be a part of God’s dream, to choose to dream with him, to want to build with him, to join him in this saga of building a world where no one will feel alone’ ”. AL 321

Aymerich Family

“Today we want to share our home with you. It is our Domestic Shrine. This is a place of praise, of encounter with God, of prayer, where we try to develop our family ministry to **live as a domestic Church**”.

“Spirituality becomes incarnate in the communion of the family. Hence, those who have deep spiritual aspirations should not feel that the family detracts from their growth in the life of the Spirit, but rather see it as a path which the Lord is using to lead them to the heights of mystical union”. AL 316





Invitation to reflect

Through my acts of love, God can show affection to my spouse, to our children, to the people I meet. I reflect on this tremendous gift and how I live it.



Family activity

Jesus dwells in our home. Let us think together about the things that can help us remember that Jesus is not an image to venerate, but a living presence. We can turn to Him at any moment and in every room of our home.



Community or group activity

Let us invite families to think about or to create an image that can communicate Jesus' presence there to whoever enters their home.

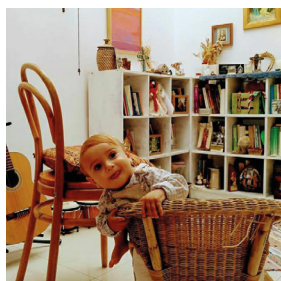
Prayer

Thank you, Lord,
for your presence in our family.

Thank you because with Your strength
we can always get back up
and continue on our way,
overcoming difficulties,
problems, misunderstandings.

Help us to invent new gestures of love,
because "those who love live in joy".
Help us make the dream for our family
that You have in your heart
come true.

Amen.



2

Called to proclaim

Holy Father

“How important it is to **communicate to married couples that** Christ is present in their sacrament! **That they are never alone**, not even when they feel desperate. For this reason, it is important that couples who have discovered **this secret communicate it to other couples**, like “word of mouth” that can enlighten every family with grace and hope”.

“Led by the Spirit, the family circle [...] [goes] forth and [spreads] life by caring for others and seeking their happiness. This openness finds particular expression in hospitality: [...] “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares” (Heb 13:2). When a family is welcoming and reaches out to others, [...] it is ‘a symbol, witness and participant in the Church’s motherhood’. [...] The family lives its spirituality precisely by being at one and the same time a domestic church and a vital cell for transforming the world”. AL 324

“The family is thus an agent of pastoral activity through its explicit proclamation of the Gospel and its legacy of varied forms of witness, namely solidarity with the poor, openness to a diversity of people, [...] moral and material solidarity with other families, including those most in need, commitment to the promotion of the common good [...] beginning in the territory in which the family lives...”. AL 290

Aymerich Family

“Precisely because throughout our relationship we have been aware countless times of our limitations and irrelevance, we are aware that thanks to these moments of prayer, **God makes our Mission fruitful**”.

“Handing on the faith presumes that parents themselves genuinely trust God, seek him and sense their need for him, for only in this way does ‘one generation laud your works to another, and declare your mighty acts’ (Ps 144:4) and ‘fathers make known to children your faithfulness’ (Is 38:19)”. AL 287





Invitation to reflectI

Reflect on how and where the Lord is calling me to witness to the power of His presence in my life.



Family activity

Let us reflect in our family on the gift we have of giving everyone who enters our home the opportunity to encounter Jesus through the simplicity of how we welcome them.



Community or group dynamic

As a community, let us try to be “a family [that] is welcoming and reaches out to others” (AL 324). A “Welcome party” could be organized in which each family commits itself to invite someone who is distant from the Church, does not attend Church, or who is alone.

Prayer

Lord,
we have experienced the strength of Your presence
in solitude,
in suffering,
in difficult moments.

Help us share with other brothers and sisters
the joy of having encountered your living presence
in our lives and in our family.

Help us to be an open family,
one that knows how to welcome,
that knows how to take care of others.

Help us to transform the world
with Your love.

Amen.



3

Let us make this journey as families. Let us continue walking together!

Holy Father

“No family begins perfectly packaged. There is no “ready-made” family. Let us never lose hope because of our limitations but neither should we give up **looking for the fullness of love** and communion that has been promised to us”.

*“It is a profound spiritual experience to **contemplate our loved ones with the eyes of God** and to see Christ in them. This demands a freedom and openness which enable us to appreciate their dignity. [...] Jesus is our model in this, for whenever people approached to speak with him, he would **meet their gaze, directly and lovingly** (cf. Mk 10:21). No one felt overlooked in his presence, since **his words and gestures conveyed the question: ‘What do you want me to do for you?’** (Mk 10:51). This is what we experience in the daily life of the family. We are constantly reminded that each of those who live with us merits complete attention, since he or she possesses infinite dignity as an object of the Father’s immense love. This gives rise to a tenderness which can **‘stir in the other the joy of being loved**. Tenderness is expressed in a particular way **by exercising loving care in treating the limitations of the other, especially when they are evident**’ ”. AL 323*

*“All of us are called to keep **striving towards something greater than ourselves and our families**, and every family must feel this constant impulse. **Let us make this journey as families, let us keep walking together**. What we have been promised is greater than we can imagine”. AL 325*

Aymerich Family

“We focus our family prayer on two important moments during the day: the first is after lunch, when we recite contemplative prayer with our older children. The second, in the evening, all together, when we devote time to praise, with songs and dancing, in a very special moment around the Sacred Scriptures, where we try to apply the Word to our lives, to the concrete circumstances of each of us”.

“A few minutes can be found each day to come together before the living God, to tell him our worries, to ask for the needs of our family, to pray for someone experiencing difficulty, to ask for help in showing love, to give thanks for life and for its blessings, and to ask Our Lady to protect us beneath her maternal mantle. With a few simple words, this moment of prayer can do immense good for our families”. AL 318



Invitation to reflection

“What do you want me to do for you?” (Mk 10:51). Let us ask ourselves often, what we can do to make a family member happy.



Family activity

Let's plan a time of prayer as a family or, if we already do that, let's think together about for whom or for what particular situation to pray together.



Community or group dynamic

Let us think of a community act of welcoming. We could invite people, during the Mass at the exchange of peace, to “fix their gaze and contemplate with love” some person nearby.



Prayer

Lord,

Our family is not perfect
but we don't want to give up
seeking the fullness of love
that You promise to us.

Grant us, O Lord,
Your strength to overcome
our limitations and
to continue to journey together.

Help us to give to someone else
the joy of feeling loved.
Help us to fix our gaze
with love on each person,
just like You do.

Amen.

4

To make the home a Church

Holy Father

“Beloved spouses, help each other experience the beauty of the domestic Church, to **‘make your home a Church’**. In the parishes, let us organize opportunities for meeting, for prayer for families, for growth, for discussion, for adoration for the big things as well as for the small things. **We must be ‘a family of families’**, where everyone feels welcomed and loved. This is the Church.

But what happens when mom and dad argue and there’s a bit of a storm there? That’s human. Plates can fly, but only on condition that **peace is restored before the day ends**. A gesture, a smile, but peace first. Because, I tell you, the cold war the next day is extremely dangerous”.

“We pastors have to encourage families to grow in faith. [...] encouraging family prayer during the week, since ‘the family that prays together stays together’. [...] The word of God is not only good news in a person’s private life but also a criterion of judgement and a light in discerning the various challenges that married couples and families encounter”. AL 227

“The truth is that ‘family communion can only be preserved and perfected through a great spirit of sacrifice. It requires, in fact, a ready and generous openness of each and all to understanding, to forbearance, to pardon, to reconciliation’”. A “forgiveness, which is rooted in a positive attitude that seeks to understand other people’s weaknesses and to excuse them”. AL 106, 105





Invitation to reflectI

Reflect on my behavior when there is a misunderstanding in the family. Is my goal to try to discover who is right or, first of all, to try to understand the other person's perspective?



Family activity

We could propose to our family a “week of forgiveness”: it could be a period in which everyone dedicates themselves in their own way to forgive others. At the end of the week, we could share our experiences of forgiveness.



Community or group activity

During the current week, let us offer our community a moment of Eucharistic Adoration so that the family dimension of the community can come to the fore.

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendour of true love;
to you we turn with trust.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic churches.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience
violence, rejection and division;

may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.
Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful
of the sacredness and inviolability of the
family,
and its beauty in God's plan.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
Graciously hear our prayer.

Amen

Francis 19 March 2016

Invitation to read *Amoris Laetitia*

“The Spirituality of Marriage and the Family”

Amoris Laetitia, Chapter Nine, no. 313-325.

Link to the Apostolic Exhortation AMORIS LAETITIA



Aymerich Family: Rosa and Edu, A married Spanish missionary couple. They have six children and currently live in Costa Rica where they are on mission. .



Familial love: vocation and path to holiness

Holy Father,
we are here before You
to praise You and thank You for the great gift of the family.
We pray to You for families, consecrated in the Sacrament of Matrimony,
that each day they might rediscover the grace they have received,
and, as small domestic Churches,
they might know how to witness to Your Presence.
and the love with which Christ loves the Church.
We pray to You for families going through difficulty and suffering,
from illness, or from problems only You know:
sustain them and make them aware
of the way of holiness to which You call them,
so that they might experience Your infinite mercy
and find new ways to grow in love.
We pray to You for children and young people,
so they can encounter You
and respond joyfully to the vocation You have in mind for them;
and for their parents and grandparents,
so they may be aware
that they are signs of the paternity and maternity of God:
in caring for their children who, in body and spirit,
You entrust to them, as well as in the experience of fraternity
that the family can give to the world.

Lord, grant that each family
might live their specific vocation to holiness in the Church
as a call to be active in evangelization,
in the service of life and peace,
in communion with the priests and with every state in life.

Bless the World Meeting of Families
Amen.

Official Prayer for the *10th World Meeting of Families*
22-26 June 2022

www.amoristaetitia.va



Famiglia Amoris Laetitia
Anno 2021 - 2022

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Amoris Laetitia Family
Year 2021 - 2022