



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 every 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

[www.amoristaetitia.va](http://www.amoristaetitia.va)



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