

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 scandalised
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.

RC Diocese of Aberdeen Charitable Trust.
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Amoris Laetitia Reading Group



Meeting 1
(Introduction; Chapters 1 & 9)

St Columba's, Culloden
Wednesday 6 July 2016

Psalm 127 (Hebr. Ps 128)

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper;
your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table.
Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!
May you see your children's children
in a happy Jerusalem!
On Israel, peace!

Welcome & Explanation of the Reading Group – Some Guidelines

Context of *Amoris Laetitia*

Points for Consideration

Introduction: The Joy of Love

- Pope Francis refers to the two recent Synods of Bishops' Meetings on the Family, and he states that the "complexity of issues that arose revealed the need for continued open discussion of a number of doctrinal, moral, spiritual and pastoral questions." Are there any questions that *you* would like *Amoris Laetitia* to address?
- "... not all discussions of doctrinal, moral or pastoral issues need to be settled by interventions of the magisterium" (AL 3). Do you agree?

Chapter 1: In the Light of the Word

- "The Bible is full of families, births, love stories and family crises" (AL 8). Which is your favourite biblical family (apart from the Holy Family!)?
- If you are married, can you remember which Scripture passages you used at your wedding?
- Does what the Bible says about children reflect your own experience (AL 14-18)?
- Do you find comfort in what the Pope says about suffering (AL 19-22)?

Chapter 9: The Spirituality of Marriage and the Family

- How does the Lord's presence dwell "in real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes" (AL 315)? Have you experienced his presence in your own family?
- "If a family is centred on Christ, he will unify and illumine its entire life. Moments of pain and difficulty will be experienced in union with the Lord's cross", while moments of joy, relaxation, celebration, and even sexuality can be experienced as a sharing in the full life of the resurrection" (AL 317). To what extent do you agree?
- What do you think Pope Francis means by a "spirituality of exclusive and free love" (AL 319-320)?
- Pope Francis states that the family "has always been the nearest 'hospital'" (AL 321). What do you think he means by this?
- "As this Exhortation has often noted, no family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love." (AL 325). Discuss.

Sharing & Group Discussion

Quiet Reflection