

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.
A registered Scottish Charity Number SC005122.

Amoris Laetitia **Reading Group**



– Chapter 2 –
The Experiences and Challenges of Families

– Chapter 3 –
Looking to Jesus: The Vocation of the Family

St Columba's, Culloden
Friday 15 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!

Points for Consideration

Chapter 2: The Experiences and Challenges of Families

- How are families more free today than in the time of your parents and grandparents? How do they receive less support from social structures (*AL 32-34*)?
- How has the way the church presented its beliefs and treated people contributed to the problem (*AL 36-38*)?
- What does Francis mean by saying, "We have been called to form consciences, not to replace them" (*AL 37*)? Do you agree?

- What can the government do "to ensure the future of young people and help them realize their plan of forming a family" (*AL 43-47*)?
- What do you think of Francis' description of the role of women and men in marriage (*AL 55-56*)?

Chapter 3: Looking to Jesus: The Vocation of the Family

- Do you find the teachings of Jesus on the family hopeful, inspiring, full of love and tenderness (*AL 58-66*)?
- What do you think about the way Francis talks about "imperfect situations" and "seeds of the Word" in other cultures (*AL 76-79*)?
- Do you experience the church as a "family of families" (*AL 87-88*)? If so, how?

Sharing & Group Discussion

Quiet Reflection