

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**



– Chapter 4 –
Love in Marriage

St Columba's, Culloden
Wednesday 20 July 2016

St Paul's Hymn to Love (1 Cor 13: 4-7)

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 bears all things,
believes all things,
hopes all things,
endures all things

Points for Consideration

- Reading St Paul's great hymn of love, which of the characteristics of love initially attracts you most? Why? (*AL 90*)?
- Pope Francis quotes St. Ignatius of Loyola who said, "Love is shown more by deeds than by words" (*AL 94*). Do you agree?
- Francis talks a lot about the need for forgiveness in families (*AL 103-108*). Is he right? What do you find helpful in his advice?
- "Love does not have to be perfect for us to value it. The other person loves me as best they can, with all their limits, but the fact that love is imperfect does not mean

that it is untrue or unreal" (*AL 113*). Is imperfect love enough to hold a marriage together?

- What does Francis mean by "trust enables a relationship to be free" (*AL 115*)? Does that match your experience?
- Francis has a long quote from Martin Luther King (*AL 118*). Are we as individuals, as a nation, able to observe what he says? What does this say about our political culture and our response to terrorism?
- What do you think of Francis' argument for "indissoluble exclusivity" in marriage (*AL 123-124*)?
- Francis, the celibate, speaks of the passion, joy, and beauty of marriage (*AL 125-130, 142-152*). Does he get it right? What rings true? What doesn't?
- Francis speaks to young people about the importance of marriage (*AL 131-132*). Is he convincing?
- Francis says the three essential words in a family are: "Please," "thank you," and "sorry." Do you agree?
- How can you encourage dialogue in your family (*AL 136-141*)?
- What do you think of Francis' treatment of love and aging (*AL 163-164*)?

Sharing & Group Discussion

Quiet Reflection