

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.

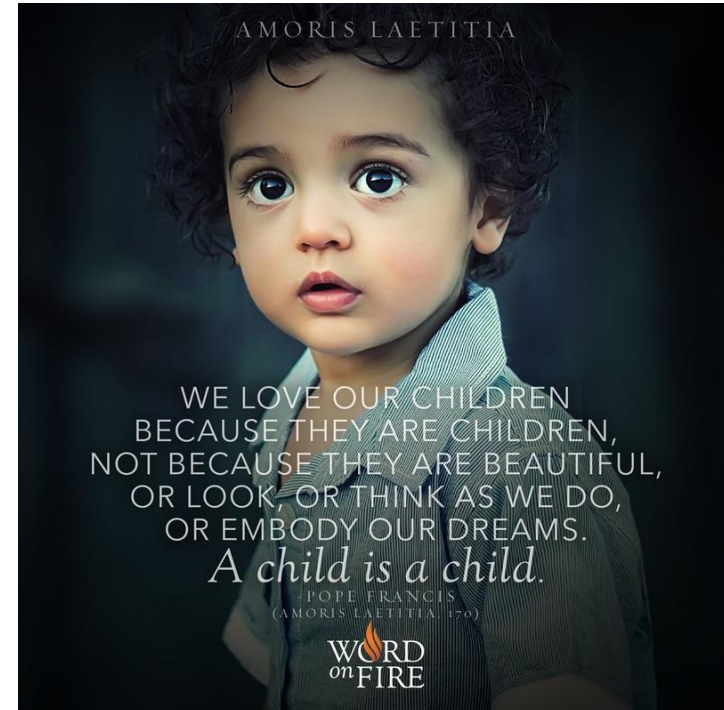
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again experience
violence, rejection and division;
may all who have been hurt or scandalised
find ready comfort and healing.

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 5 –
Love Made Fruitful

– Chapter 7 –
Towards a Better Education of Children

St Columba's, Culloden
Wednesday 27 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 5: Love Made Fruitful

- “Large families are a joy for the Church,” writes Pope Francis, but he also speaks of “responsible parenthood” (*AL* 167). How are these two balanced?
- How does Francis describe pregnancy (*AL* 168-171)? Do you agree with what he says?
- The pope describes the roles of mothers and fathers in a family (*AL* 172-177). Does he get it right? Or wrong?

- What does Francis have to say to couples who are unable to have children (*AL* 178-181)?
- How does Francis want families to interact with the world around them (*AL* 181-186)?
- What is the role of the extended or wider family (*AL* 187, 196-198)?

Chapter 7: Towards a Better Education of Children

- How do parents instil “trust and loving respect” (*AL* 263), foster “good habits and a natural inclination to goodness” (*AL* 264-266), and develop true freedom in their children (*AL* 267)?
- What does Francis mean by saying, “the family is the first school of human values” (*AL* 274)?
- How does technology help or hinder the educational process that occurs between parents and children (*AL* 278)?
- What is the proper role of sex education (*AL* 280-286)?
- What do you think of Francis' discussion of masculinity and femininity (*AL* 286)?
- What are the challenges for parents in passing on the faith to their children (*AL* 287-290)?

Sharing & Group Discussion

Quiet Reflection