

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 6 –
Some Pastoral Perspectives
on Marriage and Divorce

St Columba's, Culloden
Wednesday 3 August 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

1. Why are Christian families the principal agents of the Church as family apostolate? (AL 200).
2. What role does Francis see for the parish in family ministry? (AL 202).
3. In what way should the Church help couples prepare for marriage? How should the parish community help the engaged couple to be aware of the challenges of marriage? (AL 205-211).
4. What preparation did *you* receive for *your* marriage? Was it useful? How could it have been better? (AL 205-211).

5. Francis warns about love growing stagnant early in the marriage. What alternatives does he offer, both as a view of love, and as aids to young couples? (AL 217-220).
6. Francis talks about “unduly high expectations about conjugal life” as a cause of divorce. What does he mean? (AL 221). What expectations did you have when you got married? Have they changed? If so, how?
7. What are some of the means Francis proposes to “encourage families to grow in faith”? (AL 227).
8. Every marriage will encounter challenges and difficulties. How should we deal with them? What advice does Francis give so we can grow from them rather than stagnate in them? (AL 232-238).
9. Is separating from a spouse necessarily sinful? How should the Church help those abandoned by spouses? What about those entering new unions? What about the children of divorced couples? (AL 241-243, 245-246).
10. What problems arise from homosexual unions being treated as marriages by the Church? (AL 251).

Sharing & Group Discussion

Quiet Reflection