



Year
**Amoris
Laetitia
Family**

19 March 2021 - 26 June 2022





On March 19, 2021, the Church will celebrate five years since the publication of the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* on the beauty and joy of love in the family.

On the same day, Pope Francis will launch the Year “**Amoris Laetitia Family**”, which will conclude on June 26, 2022, on the occasion of the X World Meeting of Families in Rome with the Holy Father.

THE PROJECT

The Year “*Amoris Laetitia Family*” is an initiative of **Pope Francis**, which aims to reach every family around the world through several spiritual, pastoral and cultural proposals that can be implemented within Parishes, Dioceses, universities, ecclesial movements and family associations.

The goal is to offer the Church an opportunity for reflection and an in-depth appreciation of the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, in order to concretely experience its richness.

The pandemic experience has highlighted the central role of the family as the domestic Church and the importance of community ties between families. Such ties make the Church an authentic “**family of families**” (AL 87). The family deserves a year of celebrations, so that it can be placed at the center of commitment and care from every pastoral and ecclesial reality.





THE GOALS

- Share the content of the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* more widely, to let “people experience the Gospel of the family as a joy that *fills hearts and lives*” (AL 200). A family that discovers and experiences both the joy of having a gift, and of being a gift for the Church and society, “can become a light in the darkness of the world” (AL 66). And the world today certainly needs this light!
- Proclaim that the sacrament of marriage is a gift and contains in itself a transforming power of human love. For this purpose, pastors and families must journey together with a sense of co-responsibility and pastoral complementarity between the different vocations in the Church (cf. AL 203).

- Enable families to become active agents of the family apostolate. To this end, “an effort at evangelization and catechesis inside the family” (AL 200) is required, since a family of disciples turns into a missionary family.
- Make young people aware of the importance of formation in the truth of love and in the gift of self, with initiatives dedicated to them.
- Broaden the vision and scope of the family apostolate to embrace a cross-cutting approach, including married couples, children, young people, the elderly and situations of family fragility.



RECIPIENTS

Episcopal Conferences,
Dioceses, Parishes,
Movements and Family
Associations
but above all,
families around the world

INITIATIVES AND RESOURCES

Some of the initiatives are listed below. The invitation, addressed to all communities, is to participate and become active agents in further proposals to be developed at local Church level (i.e., Dioceses, Parishes, and Ecclesial Communities).

- Forum: **“Where are we with *Amoris Laetitia*? Strategies for implementing the apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis,”** to be held from 9 to 12 June 2021, gathering the heads of offices for family pastoral ministry from Bishops’ Conferences, International Movements and Family Associations.

- **“10 Videos *Amoris Laetitia*”** Project: the Holy Father will explain the chapters of the apostolic exhortation, along with families who will give witness by sharing some aspects of their daily lives. Each month, a new video will be released to enkindle pastoral interest in the family within Dioceses and Parishes around the world.



- **#IamChurch:** a series of videos on the faith and ecclesial involvement of persons with disabilities.

- **“Walking with families”:** 12 concrete pastoral proposals for journeying with families, inspired by *Amoris Laetitia*.

- In view of the X World Meeting of Families in Rome in 2022, Dioceses and families around the world are invited to share and explore in-depth **the catechesis** that will be provided by the Diocese of Rome and commit themselves to carrying out ad hoc pastoral initiatives.

- Celebrating a **Grandparents and the Elderly Day**.



Resources will be provided for **family spirituality**, pastoral formation and activity for **marriage preparation**, **young people education in affective maturity**, on the holiness of **married couples** and families who live out the grace of the sacrament in their daily lives. **International academic symposiums** will be organized to achieve a thorough understanding of the contents and implications of the apostolic exhortation in relation to highly topical issues that affect families around the world.





“WALKING WITH FAMILIES”: 12 WAYS TO WALK WITH FAMILIES FOLLOWING *AMORIS LAETITIA*

1 Strengthen pastoral programs for marriage preparation with new **catechumenal itineraries** at Diocesan and Parish levels (cf. AL 205-222), in order to offer remote, proximate, and immediate marriage preparation, as well as accompaniment of new spouses in the first years of their marriage. This responsibility is especially entrusted to married couples who, together with pastors, become companions on the journey for engaged couples and those new to married life.

2 Foster the pastoral ministry of **accompaniment of spouses**, by means of formation encounters and times dedicated to prayer and spiritual development, so that spouses may gain awareness of the gift and grace of the nuptial sacrament. (cf. AL 58-ff. and 223-230).

3 Organize meetings for parents on children **education** and current challenges (cf. AL 172-ff. and 259-290), in response to the advice of Pope Francis, who suggests that parents try to understand “where children are in their journey”. (cf. AL 261).

4 Promote meetings for reflection and discussion on the **beauty and challenges of family life** (cf. AL 32-ff. and 89-ff.) which should expand horizons both in terms of recognizing the value of the family on a societal level; as well as in creating well-established networks of pastors and families who, by their own sharing and witness, can accompany those who are struggling.

5 Enhance the accompaniment of **couples in crisis**, (cf. AL 232-ff.) to form them into an attitude of resilience, which will help them see challenges as an opportunity to become stronger and grow in love.

6 Involve **married couples into Diocesan and Parish structures** to set up family ministry (cf. AL 86-88), and rethink the **formation of pastoral workers, seminarians, and priests**, so that they may fruitfully collaborate with families and live up to the challenges of today’s world (cf. AL 202-ff.). To this end, it will be important to foster reciprocity between the “family- domestic Church” and the Church (AL 200), so that each may mutually discover and value each other as an irreplaceable gift.



The following are twelve proposals and suggestions for a commitment to family pastoral care in the light of the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. Each ecclesial reality is invited to consider which of these proposals can be developed or implemented at local level, according to its own conditions and needs

7 Promote a **missionary vocation** in families (cf. AL 201, 230 and 324) by creating times for formation in evangelization and missionary initiatives (e.g., on the occasion of children's reception of the sacraments, during marriage preparation, anniversaries or important liturgical moments).

8 Develop programs of **pastoral care of the elderly** (cf. AL 191-193) which seek to overcome the "throw-away" culture and societal indifference, and promote initiatives that build bridges across the different stages of life, while also making the elderly into active agents within the pastoral care of the community.

9 Incorporate **youth ministry** into initiatives, which reflect upon and discuss issues such as family, marriage, chastity, openness to life, the use of social media, poverty, and respect for creation (cf. AL 40). We must succeed in sparking young people's enthusiasm, in enhancing their ability to commit themselves fully to great ideals and face the challenges that such ideals entail. Special attention should be paid this year to children, in order to make them aware of the Year of "Amoris Laetitia Family" and suggested initiatives.

10 Encourage **preparation for the X World Meeting of Families** with catechesis and training itineraries, which will provide accompaniment for families towards the meeting with the Holy Father, through various steps and experiences.

11 Launch initiatives of accompaniment and discernment of **wounded families**, (cf. AL 50-ff., 241-ff. and 291-ff.) to help them discover and carry out their mission within their family and in the community, starting from their Baptism.

12 Organize meetings in Parishes and communities involving groups for an **in-depth study of Amoris Laetitia**, in order to raise awareness of the concrete pastoral opportunities that occur in individual ecclesial communities (cf. AL 199-ff.).





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Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life
Palazzo San Calisto - 00120 - Città del Vaticano
Tel: (0039) 06.69869300 - Fax: (0039) 06.6987214
Website: www.amorislaitia.va - Social: @laityfamilylife