**Sharing in the Joy of Love in Marriage and Family:**

**A Pastoral Plan to Implement *Amoris Laetitia***

*Pastoral Tool Kit*

**Homily Prompts**

**Third Sunday in Lent, Readings of Year A: Woman at the Well**

**Introduction**

* Gospel gives the example of true pastoral accompaniment: Jesus gradually guiding the Samaritan woman from a place of rejection and sinfulness to being an evangelizer.
* Jesus promises the woman what he promises each one of us: he is with us always, meeting us in the messiness of our lives and drawing us toward the Father.
* As Pope Francis has noted: “God likes to give his love to open hearts. Do you know what he loves most? To knock on the door of families, and find families who love each other, who bring up their children to grow, and help them move forward. To create and develop a society with truth, goodness and beauty.”

*– Pope Francis, World Meeting of Families, 2015*

**Accompaniment in the Family**

* In imitation of Jesus, compassionate accompaniment of families is the framework for our pastoral implementation of *Amoris Laetitia*.
* “The Church’s pastoral action must be progressive … in the sense that it must follow the family, accompanying it step by step in the different stages of its formation and development.” *– Saint John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio, 65*
* “Pope Francis affirms that our task is not to scold, but to sustain them in faith and hope. We need to begin patiently and lovingly to accompany them with special concern, helping them to live as fully as possible the life-giving experience of Christ and his Church.” – *Cardinal Wuerl, Blog Post, April 22, 2016*

**Accompaniment is Personal**

* “In the long run, is there any other way of handing on the Gospel than by transmitting to another person one’s personal experience of faith? It must not happen that the pressing need to proclaim the Good News to the multitudes should cause us to forget this form of proclamation whereby an individual’s personal conscience is reached and touched by an entirely unique word that he receives from someone else.”  – *Blessed Paul VI, Evangeli Nunciandi, 46*

**Accompaniment leads to Transformation in Christ**

* As St. Augustine knew, we are all wired for God, hungry for absolute reality. But God, as St. John knew, *is love*. Therefore, to be filled with God is to be filled with love, which is to say, self-emptying. The moment we receive something of the divine grace, we should make of it a gift and then we will receive more of the divine grace. In a word, our being will increase in the measure that we give it away. This is the “water welling up to eternal life” that Jesus speaks of. God wants not merely to bind up our wounds; he wants to marry us, to make us “partakers of the divine nature.”  – *Bishop Robert Barron, “4 Lessons on Divine Mercy from*

*the Woman at the Well,” Word on Fire, June 7, 2016*

* Accompaniment is more than simply indulging. It is more than meeting people where they are. Accompaniment is providing personal witness and guidance, challenging and encouraging them toward something different.
* This is the “preaching and attitudes of Jesus, who set forth a demanding ideal yet never failed to show compassion and closeness to the frailty of individuals like the Samaritan woman or the woman caught in adultery.”

*– Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia, 38*

**Practical Ways of Accompaniment of Families**

* “The Christian community is called to welcome, accompany and help young couples, offering them suitable opportunities and tools – starting with participation in Sunday Mass – to care for their spiritual life both within family life and in the realm of pastoral planning in the parish or in groups.”

*– Pope Francis,* [*Address to Roman Rota*,](https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2017/01/21/170121a.html) *January 21, 2017*

* The responsibility of the Christian community is to help each other, to bring people to Jesus. This means all the baptized have the responsibility of helping guide families to the truth, walking with them on the journey to faith.

**Conclusion**

* “Each one of us can identify himself with the Samaritan woman: Jesus is waiting for us, especially in this Season of Lent, to speak to our hearts, to my heart. Let us pause a moment in silence, in our room or in a church or in a separate place. Let us listen to his voice which tells us ‘If you knew the gift of God….’ May the Virgin Mary help us not to miss this appointment, on which our true happiness depends.”

*– Pope Benedict, Angelus, March 27, 2011*

* The water the woman most desired was water that would quench her thirst – in this case – her thirst for love. That thirst can only be completely quenched in Jesus and in living by the truth we find in the Gospel.

**General Intercessions**

**Mass with Families Third Sunday of Lent**

**Priest:**

Confident of the love of our Heavenly Father

We turn to him with our prayers and the needs of all families.

**Deacon/Reader:**

For Francis our Pope, Donald our Cardinal Archbishop, and all those who help guide the family of the Church, that they may continue to accompany their spiritual children with great care and compassion, we pray to the Lord.

For government leaders, that through appropriate legislation they may work to uphold families as the fundamental unit of society and implement policies to protect all struggling families, we pray to the Lord.

For all those in need, especially those without the support of a loving family, or those who have been marginalized or overlooked, that they may be cared for by the kind attention of their Christian brothers and sisters, we pray to the Lord.

For families striving to be a witness of God’s love that filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit they will continue to be a light to the world.

For families in crisis, especially for those who have suffered the anguish of divorce, separation, conflict, and for victims of domestic violence, that Christ’s love bring them peace and healing, we pray to the Lord.

For an increase in vocations to sacramental marriage, especially in the Archdiocese of Washington, that more young men and women respond to the Lord’s call to truly be a sign of his sacrificial love for His Church, we pray to the Lord.

For all those who have died, that purified by God’s grace, they may be one with Him for all eternity, we pray to the Lord.

**Priest:**

Loving Father,

we thank you for your compassion and mercy

towards us your children in our weakness.

Hear our prayers and answer them if they be

in accord with your most gracious will.

We ask this, through Christ, our Lord.

**Intercesiones Generales para la Misa con las Familias**  
  
**Sacerdote:**  
Confiados en el amor de nuestro Padre Celestial le ofrecemos nuestras oraciones por las necesidades de todas nuestras familias.   
  
**Diácono /Lector:**  
Por nuestro Papa Francisco, El Cardenal Arzobispo Donald, y por todos aquellos que ayudan a las Familias en la Iglesia, para que continúen acompañando a sus hijos espirituales con mucho cuidado y compasión, oremos al Señor.  
  
Por los líderes del gobierno, para que mediante una apropiada legislación mantengan a la familia como célula fundamental de la sociedad e implementen políticas, para proteger a las familias en sus desafíos,oremos al Señor.   
  
Por los necesitados, especialmente aquellos que no tienen el apoyo de sus familias, los marginados e ignorados, para que reciban la cálida atención de sus hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, oremos al Señor.  
  
Por las familias que luchan por ser testigos del amor de Dios, para que por la gracia del Espíritu Santo continúen siendo luz para este mundo, oremos al Señor.   
  
Por las familias en crisis, especialmente por aquellas que han pasado por la angustia del divorcio, separación, conflictos, y por las víctimas de violencia doméstica, para que el amor de  Cristo les traiga paz y sanación,oremos al Señor.   
  
Por un aumento en la vocación  sacramental del matrimonio, especialmente en la Arquidiócesis de Washington, para que más jóvenes respondan al llamado del Señor a ser signos auténticos del amor sacrificial de Cristo por Su Iglesia, oremos al Señor.   
  
Por los que han fallecido, para que purificados por la gracia de Dios, sean uno con El por toda la eternidad,oremos al Señor.  
  
**Sacerdote:**  
Amado Padre,   
Gracias por tu compasión y misericordia hacia tus hijos,   
en sus debilidades.   
Escucha nuestras oraciones y atiendelas de acuerdo a tu  Santa voluntad.  
Te lo pedimos por Cristo Nuestro Señor.Amén

**Bulletin Announcements**

**Sharing in the Joy of Love in Marriage and Family:**

On Sunday, March 4th at 11:30 am, Cardinal Wuerl will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle with families representing all the parishes of the Archdiocese of Washington. At this Mass, His Eminence will introduce the Pastoral Plan to Implement *Amoris Laetitia*. This compassionate accompaniment of families, with the God News of the Gospel of marriage and family, is the framework for pastoral implementation of Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation.

For resources and to read *Amoris Laetitia* and Cardinal’s pastoral plan visit: <http://adw.org/amorislaetitia/>.

A pastoral Plan to Implement *Amoris Laetitia* by His Eminence Cardinal Wuerl

**“Sharing in the Joy of Love in Marriage and Family”**

Pope Francis has raised up to greater heights a renewed emphasis in accompaniment in his exhortation *Amoris Laetitia.* With this pastoral letter, Cardinal Wuerl is calling the church of Washington to deeply engage as missionary disciples to accompany families with the Good News of the Gospel on marriage and family.

For resources and to read *Amoris Laetitia* and Cardinal’s pastoral plan visit: <http://adw.org/amorislaetitia/>.

**Sharing in the Joy of Love in Marriage and Family:**

Cardinal Wuerl will present his Pastoral Plan: “Sharing in the Joy of Love in Marriage and Family” on March 4, 2018, at the St. Mathew’s Cathedral. The document will be used for the implementation of *Amoris Laetitia,* the apostolic letter of Pope Francis to all our parishes. This Apostolic exhortation is an ambitious call to accompany our families with compassion, sharing with them the Good news of the Gospel by caring, supporting and nurturing our marriages and families.

For resources and to read *Amoris Laetitia* and the Cardinal’s pastoral plan visit: <http://adw.org/amorislaetitia/>.

**ANUNCIOS PARA EL BOLETIN/ESPAÑOL**

**“Compartiendo la alegría del amor en el matrimonio y la familia”:**

El domingo 4 de marzo a las 11:30 a.m., el Cardenal Wuerl celebrará una Misa en la Catedral de San Mateo Apóstol con familias representativas de todas las parroquias de la Arquidiócesis de Washington. En esta misa, Su Eminencia presentará su Plan Pastoral para implementar Amoris Laetitia. Acompañar compasivamente a las familias con las Buena Nueva del Evangelio, es el marco para la implementación pastoral de esta exhortación apostólica del Papa Francisco.

Para mayores recursos o para leer Amoris Laetitia y el Plan Pastoral de Cardenal visite: <http://adw.org/amorislaetitia/>.

**“Compartiendo la alegría del amor en el matrimonio y la familia”:**

El Papa Francisco ha renovado con mayor énfasis el acompañamiento a las familias, particularmente en su exhortación Amoris Laetitia. El Cardenal Wuerl convoca la iglesia de Washington a comprometerse más profundamente como discípulos misioneros a acompañar a las familias con la implementación de su plan pastoral: “*Compartiendo la alegría del amor en el matrimonio y la familia”:*

Para mayores recursos o para leer Amoris Laetitia y el plan pastoral de Cardenal visite: <http://adw.org/amorislaetitia/>.

**“Compartiendo la alegría del amor en el matrimonio y la familia”:**

El Cardenal Wuerl presentó su Plan Pastoral: **“**Compartiendo la alegría del amor en el matrimonio y la familia” el 4 de marzo en la Catedral de San Mateo. Este documento será utilizado para la implementación en todas nuestras parroquias del plan pastoral del Cardenal basado en la carta apostólica Amoris Laetitia del Papa Francisco. Amoris Laetitia, es un llamado ambicioso para acompañar a nuestras familias con compasión, compartiendo con ellos las Buena Nueva del Evangelio; cuidando, apoyando y nutriendo a nuestros matrimonios y familias.

Para mayores recursos o para leer Amoris Laetitia y el plan pastoral de Cardinal visite: <http://adw.org/amorislaetitia/>.