

# SHARING Joy IN THE OF Love IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY



**THE JOY OF LOVE IS LEARNED IN THE FAMILY AND IN THE PARISH.** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph is a school of love in which love is displayed through generous and self-less service. Through their example and intercession, the Holy Family can strengthen husbands, wives, and children as visible signs or icons of Divine love. Parents and the Church are entrusted with the responsibility for passing on the faith and preparing children for their own vocation and for eternal life. Educating children in faith, moral virtues, and self-discipline are all necessary to share the joy of family life.

## PREPARING CHILDREN TO SHARE IN THE JOY

### PLEASE, THANK YOU, SORRY...

“Please” teaches children to acknowledge their dependence on others for help, that none of us is self-sufficient. “Thank you” teaches them to recognize that everything is a gift and that their highest duty is to give thanks to God. “Sorry” teaches children that actions have consequences, to accept responsibility, and that forgiveness, though hard work, is possible with God’s grace.

### CHILDREN OF DIVORCE

If there is a breakdown that leads to separation or even divorce, the pastoral care of children needs to be the primary concern. The parish, as the family of families can support and accompany children with the assurance that they are infinitely loved and will be able to experience the gift of love in their own marriage someday. Parents who have divorced need the help and support of the parish family to heal and remain faithful. They need to be assured that the church is there for them and their children.

### PASSING ON THE FAITH

All of us should be able to say that thanks to our family life we have come to believe in the Love God has for us. Parents pass on the faith to their children by their witness more than their words. Prayer is a lived expression of faith and therefore it is essential that children see their parents at prayer both at Mass and in the home.



Cardinal Wuerl has written a Pastoral Plan to teach and celebrate the gift and joy of love in the family and help families that are hurting.

At its heart, the pastoral plan applies the vision of Pope Francis’ letter *Amoris Laetitia* to parish ministry and family life.

The plan has five parts:

**Part I**  
Amoris Laetitia’s Teaching

**Part II**  
The Way of Faith and Contemporary Culture

**Part III**  
The Way of Accompaniment

**Part IV**  
The Importance of Parish Life

**Part V**  
Resources in Service of the Ministry of Accompaniment

See the pastoral plan, resources, and more at [www.adw.org/amorislaetitia](http://www.adw.org/amorislaetitia)

