

SESSION I: THE CHURCH'S TEACHING ON MARRIAGE

Sources:

- Familiaris Consortio (1981), John Paul II;
- Evangelii Gaudium (2013) Francis;
- Laudato Si (2015) Francis;
- Amoris Laetitia (2016) Francis.

The four main tasks of a family:

1. Forming a community of persons
2. Serving life
3. Participating in the development of society
4. Sharing in the life and the mission of the Church

Ad 1. **Forming a community of persons**

- love as the principle and power of communion
- the indivisible unity of conjugal communion
- the broader communion of the family
- personal growth (friendliness, politeness, loyalty, wisdom, moderation, courage, justice, generosity, compassion, mercifulness, gratitude, humility, tolerance, humor)
- the rights and role of women/ women and society/ offenses against women's dignity
- men as husbands and fathers
- the rights of children

Ad 2. **Serving life**

- God created sexuality, which is a marvelous gift to His creatures. It has two dimensions; firstly, it is instrumental to increase the bond of intimacy between the couple ("*It must be seen as a gift from God that enriches the relationship of the spouses*"- AL par.152), and secondly, sexuality is a source of fruitfulness and procreation. It presupposes the full reciprocal self-giving of the spouses and the exclusivity thereof. Family planning is the parents' own responsibility and should be based on respect for the dignity of the other and on self-control.
- education

Ad 3. **Participating in the development of society**

- respect for the dignity of every human being; help in enabling the other to grow physically, intellectually and spiritually;
- economy/ money is a means not a goal: no to an economy of exclusion, no to the new idolatry of money, no to a financial system that rules rather than serves, no to the inequality that spawns violence
- the common good should be leading; honest distribution of prosperity (a social mortgage for the rich), water, food, housing, education and care for everybody;
- leave a better planet (ecological, economical, and cultural) for future generations;

"The earth is our common home and all of us are brothers and sisters. If indeed the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics, the church cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. All Christians are called to show concern for the building of a better world" (Evangelii Gaudium par. 183)

Ad 4. ***Sharing in the life and the mission of the Church***

- the Church is not perfect, but the world needs the Church and the Church needs the world;
- in the past the Catholic church introduced schools, universities and hospitals for the masses;
- **nowadays, the Catholic church feeds, clothes, houses, educates, visits imprisoned people and cares for the sick, on a larger scale than any other organization;**
- evangelization is more than reading the scriptures
- families not only benefit of the Church but can also contribute to the Church if only as role models.

"..and may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelizers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervour, who have first received the joy of Christ.....new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world,..... the church grows but by attraction"
 –(Evangelii Gaudium, par.10, 11 and14)