

Walking with Families During the Year of Amoris Laetitia

Goal #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.

The walk with families in the Year of Amoris Laetitia will culminate with the X World Meeting of Families (WMOF) held June 22-26, 2022. In a way, the entire year of Amoris Laetitia Family has been a preparation for WMOF. The upcoming WMOF is unique in that the Holy Father has asked each diocese and parish to hold their own celebrations of families in conjunction with the primary meeting in Rome. This allows for every family all over the world—whatever their economic circumstance or geographic distance from Rome—to participate in a real and concrete way.

In whatever way parishes and dioceses choose to celebrate the World Meeting of Families, it is important that their plans include catechesis and training itineraries that will provide accompaniment for families so that they may be well prepared to hear the message the Holy Father will send to all families during the WMOF.

The Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life has published a catechetical series revolving around the theme for The X World Meeting of Families, “Family Love: A Vocation and a Path to Holiness.” Each topic begins with a teaching reflection and is followed by points of discussion for couples, families, and the faith community. Links to relevant papal documents are also included for those who would like to immerse themselves more deeply in the teaching.

“Family Love: A Vocation and a Path to Holiness...is intended to highlight family love as a vocation and as a way of holiness, so as to understand and share the profound and salvific meaning of family relationships in daily life.”
-Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life

Catechesis and training itineraries that provide accompaniment for families in preparation for the World Meeting of Families may include:

- Weekly or monthly family catechesis evening accompanied by a meal and/or family-friendly activity to promote familial and communal bonding.
- A festival for families coinciding with the World Meeting of Families in Rome at the parish, regional, or diocesan levels. Depending on time zone differences, streaming events can be held to listen to the Holy Father’s words to families at the WMOF.

- Married couple leaders host other couples at the parish or in their homes. Couples can watch the catechesis videos from Rome and discuss the accompanying questions as a group.
- A parish or diocesan-wide day of reflection or several evening conferences with married couple speakers to discuss the various catechetical facets within the theme for the X World Meeting of Families.
- Services to families such as visiting the elderly, a goods drive for a local pregnancy center or shelter, a date night event for married couples that includes childcare, etc.

The Dicastery has expressed the Holy Father's wish that catechesis and celebrations for families happen all over the world at the local level. Whether a large event or series of small group discussions is planned, what matters most is that parishes and dioceses celebrate their families and help them to realize the beauty and high calling they have received to be witnesses of Christ's love in the world.