

# EUROPEAN AMERICAN FAMILY

# Challenges

- ▣ Reawakening Catholic Identity in Tradition without resorting to nostalgia
  - Catholic Social Teaching
  - Communal Sense
  - Being a Eucharistic People

# Challenges

- ▣ Passing on our Faith to our Youth
  - Youth don't feel at home
  - They need to feel their own Catholic Identity
  - We need faith formation and education for ourselves and for our youth

# Challenges

- ▣ Secularized, individualistic culture / modernity
  - Breakdown of the family structure
  - Loss of Catholic Communal Culture

# Challenges

- ▣ Polarization
  - Damages the credibility of the Church
  - Dialogue difficult

# Challenges

- ▣ An Intercultural not a Multicultural Approach
  - Comfort in interaction across cultural lines

# Opportunities

- ▣ Building a common Catholic identity
  - Through locating God in shared faith
  - Shared struggles
  - Shared histories
  - ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN HUMBLING TIMES OF SCANDAL

# Opportunities

- ▣ Young people
  - As hope and enthusiasm
  - A gift to us



# Opportunities

- ▣ Education:
  - Intercultural communication skills
  - Education for parish leaders and for families

# Opportunities

- ▣ Experiencing the Church Universal

# European American Family

- ▣ Replicate model of intercultural dialogue
  - Convocation manual needs to be broken down to be useful on the parish/diocesan/regional/national/international levels
  - Gather Young Adults/Youth in a conference replicating this model
  - Create witnessing opportunities using this conference as a model
  - Modeling intercultural diversity in other worship and conferences
    - ▣ Allow for the different cultural families to separate out and have their own tracks to be most effective in planning
  
- ▣ Resource beginning on the Parish Level for facilitating the collection of family faith stories (particularly with youth)
  - Continue this process to the diocesan, national, and international level to develop a Family History Faith Story
  - Catholic Genealogy/Faith Story network online (Facebook?)
  - Hospitality encounter/welcoming to multicultural families
    - ▣ Beyond coffee & donuts
    - ▣ Continuing mutual giving through sharing of stories

# European American Family

- ▣ Align resources with our priorities
  - Using what already exists rather than creating something new
  - Form strategic partnerships with National Organizations and Universities to advance the mission of the USCCB
  - Identifying skill set and training of people working in the vineyard
    - ▣ Who is called to Leadership?
- ▣ Catechesis & Evangelization
  - Formation programs for both youth and adults
    - ▣ People catechizing the youth are not catechized themselves
  - Raise up devotions (i.e. Marian) that have a cross cultural appeal to be celebrated in family settings
- ▣ Theological Reflection to the Conference
  - Academic response
  - Already in process