

THE VITAL ROLE OF FAMILIES

Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings
of the Roman Catholic Church

“DECISIVE FOR THE FUTURE”

The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the Church. (31)

FAMILY CALLINGS

The family is called to join in daily prayer, to read the word of God and to share in Eucharistic communion and thus to grow in love and become ever more fully a temple in which the Spirit dwells. (29)

“WE ARE GRATEFUL”

... We are grateful ... for the witness of marriages that have not only proved lasting, but also fruitful and loving. (38)

“SOURCE OF COMFORT”

The word of God is not a series of abstract ideas but rather a source of comfort and companionship for every family that experiences difficulties or sufferings. (22)



NEEDED VALUES

As Christians, we can hardly stop advocating marriage simply to avoid countering contemporary sensibilities, or out of a desire to be fashionable or a sense of helplessness in the face of human and moral failings. We would be depriving the world of values that we can and must offer. (35)

THE FAMILY’S STRENGTH

The strength of the family “lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love. For all a family’s problems, it can always grow, beginning with love.” (*Relatio Finalis*, 2015) (53)

“THE POWER OF GRACE”

We must be grateful that most people do value family relationships that are permanent and marked by mutual respect. They appreciate the Church’s efforts to offer guidance and counselling in areas related to growth in love, overcoming conflict and raising children. Many are touched by the power of grace experienced in sacramental Reconciliation and in the Eucharist, grace that helps them face the challenges of marriage and the family. (38)

“KEEP MOVING FORWARD”

I thank God that many families, which are far from considering themselves perfect, live in love, fulfilling their calling and keep moving forward, even if they fall many times along the way. (51)

“ENTHUSIASM AND COURAGE”

We need to find the right language, arguments and forms of witness that can help us reach the hearts of young people, appealing to their capacity for generosity, commitment, love, and even heroism, and in this way inviting them to take up the challenge of marriage with faith and courage. (40)

(Source: Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, issued March 19, 2016)

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