

Budapest, 5 November 2016

St. Stephan's Basilica

Your Eminence,

Illustrious Maestro Bocelli,

Maestro Rota and you, musicians of the Óbudai Danubia Zenekar Orchestra and the Vox Humana Choir,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the great honor and joy to greet you all on behalf of the new Prefect of the Holy See's Congregation for the Laity, the Family and Life, His Eminence Cardinal Kevin Farrell, at this new extraordinary event of the "Great Mystery," today in St. Stephen's Basilica in Budapest—the city's largest church, dedicated to its first Christian king and founder of the Hungarian state, where the precious relic of his right hand is conserved.

St. Stephen was a king, a husband, and a father. His family gave him a Christian education. Anointed king of Hungary, on Christmas night of the year one thousand, with the title "Apostolic King," he also cared for the religious life of his people, planting the roots of a solid Christian culture. His wife, Gisella of Bavaria, supported him in all his work and, after his death, withdrew into a monastery. This is a story about the people, the family and life, and about the love, rooted in faith, that sustains them.

Likewise, our gathering here for this concert, with the collaborators of a Vatican Dicastery, the local Church of this emblematic European Capital, and greatly renowned artists is primarily intended to celebrate the beauty and joy of love (as the title of Pope Francis' recent Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, says) and to spread the good news of the family. This initiative, conceived and desired by the Pontifical Council for the Family in collaboration with Maestro Andrea Bocelli, supports and increases the appreciation and encouragement of the new Dicastery, which brings together the entire people of God and spreads like a hymn to human life, which the family bears in its adorable womb.

Msgr. Carlos Simon Vasquez

Undersecretary of the Vatican Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life.