

family 2012

■ Cardinal Angelo Scola

“We’ll welcome the Pope, testifying the bond with the Church of Rome”

■ Cardinal Ennio Antonelli

“The meeting will show the international side of the Church”

■ Families around the world

“Thus Australia will be at the meeting in Milan”

THE FAMILY: WORK AND CELEBRATION VII WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES IN MILAN



Mons. Jean Laffitte*



The Christian family's warm welcome

When I have the opportunity to go into a family's home, there are little signs that tell me it's Christian - I often see a Cross on the wall and, if I have lunch with them, I'm often asked to bless the food. However, there's another aspect often which increasingly strikes me and makes me thank the Lord for the home I'm visiting - the way all family members interact and also interact with the guests.

This is particularly clear at table. The children may help their mother to serve the food or clear up, and everyone takes

part in the conversation. They are all used to listening when someone talks, even if it's the youngest in the family who recounts an apparently banal fact - and it's not just a question of good manners. There's a way taught by the parents, which shows how they've chosen to live together, to interact and be a family, behind these simple gestures. John Paul II summarises this family style in three words in *Familiaris Consortio* (64) - welcome, respect and service, showing the family way of living the communion.

The Christian family is a place where people take care of each other, where gestures and words are important, where people help and support each other, where people really love each other, where love is the logic inspiring and moving definite choices, even when there are rows and people don't understand each other. But there's more. The families who, every day, try to live in this way with God's help, simply live the welcome and respect for others. Everywhere they live (blocks of flats, schools, offices and parishes),

they live the service with all the people they meet, especially those in difficulty. The World Meeting that we'll have in Milan in a few months will be a special opportunity to test this warm welcome in the family and, even more, among families from around the world - an opening of hearts, enthusiasm and joy that can be breathed in the air and will make those days particularly intense and real. This is another reason to be in Milan at that time.

**Secretary, Pontifical Council for the Family*

The family, work and celebration. The Pope - “God’s blessings for a fully human life”

“The family - work and celebration”. This is the title chosen by Pope Benedict XVI for the VII World Meeting of Families, to be held in Milan from 30 May to 3 June 2012. The aim is precise - rediscover the family as a ‘heritage of mankind’ and return it to the centre of attention, not just of the Church but also of the whole society.

Reflection and commitment aimed at reconciling the needs and time of work with those of the family and regaining the real meaning of celebration, especially of Sunday, Easter week, a day for the Lord and a day for people, and a day for the family, the community and solidarity must be promoted



The theme and host diocese were announced by the Pope at the end of the previous World Meeting of Families held in Mexico City in January 2009. In August 2010, the Pope once more clarified the objectives of the new edition in a letter sent to the then Archbishop of Milan, Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi, and Cardinal Ennio Antonelli, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family. Benedict XVI wrote, “Work and celebration are closely connected in family life. They condition choices, influence relations between spouses and between parents and children, and affect the relationship of the family with society and the Church. The Holy Bible (Gen 1-2) tells us that family, work and a day of celebration are gifts and blessing of God to help us live a fully human existence.” The Pope continued, “Daily experience has shown that the authentic

development of the person includes both the individual, family and community dimension and work and functional relations, like opening to hope and endless good. Unfortunately, today, the organisation of work, created and implemented in accordance with market competition and maximum profit, and the conception of celebration as an opportunity for diversion and consumerism, contribute to the break up of the family and community and the spread of an individualistic lifestyle. Therefore, reflection and commitment aimed at reconciling the needs and time of work with those of the family and regaining the real meaning of celebration, especially of Sunday, Easter week, a day for the Lord and a day for people, and a day for the family, the community and solidarity must be promoted.”

The Pope clearly indicates the aims of the Meeting in the letter, “A special opportunity to reconsider work and celebration in the perspective of a united family open to life, well integrated in society and the church, aware of the quality of relations in addition to the economy of the family nucleus.” Lastly, Benedict XVI insisted on the possibility of a suitable path towards the event, because “...for it to be truly fruitful, it shouldn’t be an isolated event but be part of an appropriate pathway of religious and cultural preparation...” and suggested “...a valid itinerary with events at parish, diocesan and national levels. Christian families and church communities all over the world will, therefore, feel consulted and involved and will promptly start out on the path towards ‘Milano 2012’,” concluded the Pope. ■

The Archbishop of Milan

Scola - "Milan will welcome the Pope, testifying the bond with the Church of Rome"



When Christians propound the family "in all its beauty", "they intend to testify to the men and women of today" "that the subjective desire of the infinite at the heart of every experience of love can be fulfilled". Cardinal Angelo Scola, archbishop of Milan wrote this in his first pastoral letter to the diocese, entitled 'The good of the family', sent in preparation for the VII World Meeting of Families. The archbishop indicates the priorities with a view to the meeting - 'The work on the ten forms of catechesis', the support for families, the 'most hit' by the 'very delicate social-economic situation' and the opening up to welcome and voluntary work thinking of the event.

The archbishop continues in his letter, "I'm directing my

strong and heart-felt invitation to communities and all the families of the archdiocese in particular so that they are prepared to welcome and co-operate. It doesn't matter how much time, space or availability that each can give. Each will offer what they can, without thinking that it's not enough." The archbishop of Milan then talked once more about the meaning of the VII World Meeting on many occasions over the last few months. He explained that the VII World Meeting of Families will be an "extraordinary occasion" to document "the sincere and deep bond to the Church of Rome, the pillar and foundation of the Catholic faith. The person, testimony and teaching of Benedict XVI, as Peter's successor, will strengthen the conviction in us

that faith is reasonable, even in the current social-cultural context, because it proposes the fulfilment of man to freedom." He added that the meeting "will have positive effects on all of Milanese and Lombard society. The theme chosen aims at highlighting the necessary unity of the person through an articulated reflection on the family, work and celebration (rest). The welcome of thousands of families, from all over the world, will show how being part of the faith favours integration. The already on-going commitment of all Lombard dioceses for the VII World Meeting of Families is a significant demonstration of the fruitful existence of Christians in Lombardy." The archbishop concluded saying, "Supporting families and helping them to live their religious and social responsibility is the most realistic way of guaranteeing the future of the new generations. If life is not promoted from its conception to the natural end, the future is stolen from a man and the community impoverished." ■

The president of the Pontifical Council for the Family

Antonelli - "The meeting will show the international face of the Church" Preparation around the world



"As a result of the catechesis now translated into 10 languages (the most recent in order of appearance is the Arabic version arranged by the Lebanese church), families all over the world, believers and non-believers, are discussing how to live the experience of celebration and work and what doing all this evangelically means." Cardinal Ennio Antonelli, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family,

looks at the whole world as he recounts the progress of the preparation for the VII World Meeting of Families.

"Some episcopal conferences and many dioceses have organised conferences, family weeks and training courses on the themes of Milan. The National Conference of Ecuadorian Families last November, the Family Week of the Brooklyn diocese which will in-

volve dozens of different ethnic groups in this church, the initiatives proposed in France and Spain or jointly by various dioceses in Piedmont are just a few examples of the process."

Cardinal Antonelli recalled that "the Pope invited us to undertake a religious path leading to the World Meeting with events at parish, diocesan and national level in his letter, also giving a val-

ue to the 30th anniversary of the apostolic exhortation *Familiaris Consortio* which is the Magna Carta of family ministry today." He stressed how each edition of great world meetings, like the World Youth Days, and world meetings express "the universal character of the Christian experience. This will also happen in Milan, when the city is invaded by families from all over the world." ■



The conference during the edition of the World Meeting of Families in Valencia

The preparatory path in ten types of catechesis Films, music and art for additional information

The volume of the preparatory catechesis published by Lev



Moving towards the VII World Meeting of Families speaking the languages of the world. The Pontifical Council for the Family and the Diocese of Milan have prepared a path of ten different catechesis, available in seven official translations (Italian, English, Spanish, French, German, Portuguese and Polish) and a handful of other versions (Arabic, Hungarian, Romanian and, soon, Russian) in preparation for the event. They have the same title as the theme of the meeting - The Family: Work and Celebration. Cardinal Ennio Antonelli, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, stressed that this is an invaluable aid that can be used directly in religious communities and families. There are ten forms of biblical cate-

chesis, with the teachings of the Church, divided into three groups introduced by artistic pictures displaying the main contents. "Family, work and celebration are the three words of the theme suggested by the Pope to families. They are a trinomial that starts from the family and opens up to the world. Work and celebration are ways in which the family inhabits the 'social' space and inhabits human 'time'," explained Monsignor Franco Giulio Brambilla, new Bishop of Novara, co-ordinator of the workgroup on the drafting of the catechesis and co-president of the preparatory scientific committee of the International Theological-Pastoral Conference. He continued, "The catechesis is introduced by a first part on the style of family life (1) and di-

vided into three groups concerning the family (2-4), work (5-7) and celebration (8-10) in sequence. The texts are aimed at families and family groups, organisers, relatives, managers of associations, religious movements

The three volumes of teaching aid 'In the family'



A conference on the family in television and the cinema

The portrayal of the family by means of communication - television and cinema first of all - strongly conditions family dynamics and the interaction of the family with society. The conference 'Which family for which society?', held on Wednesday 11 January in the Pontificia Università Lateranense (Pontifical Lateran University), and included in the preparatory path for the



VII World Meeting of Families, was developed around this theme. Mons. Enrico Dal Covolo, rector of the Pontificia Università Lateranense, stressed how the cinema and television often puts itself forward as "an effective mirror in which relationship dynamics, lived at the pace of daily existence between work and celebration, can be identified and recognised"

in his opening speech. Film portrayal is often triggered by the most real and constitutive experiences of family dynamics. José Noriega Bastos, of the Pontificio Istituto Giovanni Paolo II (John Paul II Pontifical Institute) concentrated his speech on this subject. Chiara Palazzini, deputy head of the Pontificio Istituto pastorale 'Redemptor Hominis', highlighted the peculiarities of the family shown in television fiction while Mons. Dario E. Viganò, head of the same

institute, stressed that show business "has hearts, minds and passions" introducing the testimonies of the actors Alessio Boni and Cristiana Capotondi and the director Guido Chiesa. Mons. Viganò recalled that, "the cinema is not only portrayal but a cognitive route which becomes a necessary experience for complementary, profound knowledge; being involved in it means assuming the responsibility for trying to understand the attested forms so that pastoral action is more effective."

and aggregations, deacons, priests and bishops."

MULTIMEDIA TOOLS TO INVESTIGATE

Other tools using the languages of methods of communication are also available in Italian.

Fondazione Milano Famiglie 2012 has created three volumes entitled 'In famiglia' (In the Family)(Editore Itl - Centro Ambrosiano, Booking on +39 02 67131637) which, by keeping the official catechesis of the meeting whole, are a 'tool-box' for personalising the ten catechesis chapters on Family, Work and Celebration. It's a tool for those who want to face certain topics with an approach appropriate for the new generations using biblical texts, music, film and art. The language of pictures also helps to prepare for the World Meeting with 'Lifestyles', 10 short films, each lasting just a few minutes, developed as a further analysis of the catechesis path. Ten stories of exceptionally normal families who talk about themselves thus giving the opportunity for those listening to them to draw closer to the topics Family, Work and Celebration. The films, in Italian, are available in the materials section on www.family2012.com. ■

“Monsignor Brambilla - the catechesis on the family, work and celebration offers a trinomial that starts from the family and opens up to the world. Work and celebration are ways in which the family inhabits the social 'space' and lives human 'time'.”

■ FROM MILANTO ROME

The history of the World Meetings of Families

The World Meetings were started at the behest of the Blessed John Paul II during the International Year of the Family in 1994. The first date was in Rome and was entitled 'The family, heart of the civilisation of love'. This was followed by the World Meetings in Rio de Janeiro (1997 - The family -gift and commitment, hope for humanity), Rome (2000, in the sphere of the Family Jubilee - Children, the springtime of the family and society), Manila (2003 - The Christian family-good news for the Third Millennium), Valencia (2006 - The transmission of faith in the family), and Mexico City (2009 - The family, trainer of human and Christian values).

■ SOCIAL MEDIA



The World Meeting debuts on Facebook

The VII World Meeting is also on the social media. The official Facebook page of the Meeting was activated in December 2011: www.facebook.com/milanofamily2012. In just over a month, it already had 1500 fans.

The contents on www.family2012.com can also be found on the social network with the option of sharing it and commenting on it with your friends.

Family 2012 is also on another social media:

www.twitter.com/imf2012, the micro-blog where messages are limited to 140 characters (more than 200 followers, including foreign diocese sand journalists). Success on YouTube too (21,500 viewings).

Last, but not least, the Meeting is also on Google+, the new social network labelled Google at www.gplus.to/family2012.



Ron and Mavis Pirola, accompanying the Australian group to Family 2012



AUSTRALIA
Oceania



CAPITAL: Canberra
POPULATION: 22,600,000
GOVERNMENT: Federal Parliamentary monarchy

Australia: expectancy for the World Meeting

Don't assess people by their salary

When asked why we are so enthusiastic about the World Meeting of Families, we answer 'The theme'. What could be more practical and relevant to families than 'work' and 'celebration'? Of course there are other major attractions, such as the opportunity to share with families from all corners of the world, the sense of solidarity with the Holy Father and the Universal Church, not to mention the attraction of a vibrant city such as Milan. However, for most Australian families the barrier of distance will make it impossible to be physically present. So to enable them to be spiritually in solidarity with the World Meeting, the Prepara-

tory Catechesis is being distributed to parishes and family associations in our country.

Every family has its own complex relationships, history and gifts. Yet work and celebration remain core ways through which each family can grow as a 'community of love' and reflect the presence of God.

TO FIND A BALANCE

Even in our current economic downturn, most Australian family members can find employment. What a blessing! Work is essential for the family's livelihood. It also challenges us to develop our gifts to the best possible level, giving us dignity and a sense of purpose.

But too often work can be destructive. Families can be valued more for their economic productivity rather than their 'social capital', their relationships and values. Our society seems to respect people according to their job status or their income. There are also the pressures of variable shifts or long travel

time, sometimes taking a family member away for days at a time.

So while work is good and essential, the challenge is to control the work and not let it control us.

Similarly, celebration is a 'two-edged sword'. It is good to celebrate, to thank the Lord for the ways in which he has blessed us, especially in our relationships with those closest to us - our families.

Australians rightly pride themselves on their ability to 'party'. However, ours is a secular society and without a sense of God's gifts, partying can be self-centred and mindless. As the Holy Father pointed out in a Christmas message, 'a party can be organized but joy cannot'.

Joy comes from a sense of gratitude for God's gifts and a life style of care for others. That is developed through the school of daily family life. Most of all, one needs time to be together. Paradoxically, in an era of labour-saving devices, we are materially rich but 'time poor'.

“Studies show that in the vast majority of Australian families, meals are either eaten separately or in front of TV”

A family, a story



The Boyds -father, mother and seven children. "The secret of daily life? Working together to stay together."

Our family lives in a coastal town of a rural Australian Diocese. With seven children, creating our family has required work - work from within the family and work outside the family.

Recent events required Mark to take a work position that requires him to be away from the home for days at a time. It pres-

ents a particular challenge, not only for Ursula, but also for our children. We try to model for them the fact that outside work is for the purpose of supporting the family but all career-related decisions have to recognize the central importance of our family relationships.

Our presentation of a positive



The biggest challenges come from the good things in our lives which, like work, tend to take over.

This is most felt on weekends which should be precious times of being present to one another. Instead, the great Australian love of sport means much of the weekend is spent driving children to their sporting activities. And with both parents often working outside the home and with shops open on Sundays, weekend shopping becomes the norm.

Modern technology and social networking also challenge family relationships. Studies show that in the vast majority of Australian families, meals are either eaten separately or in front of TV.

THE WORLD MEETING, OPPORTUNITY TO BE SEIZED

So we look forward to preparing for the World Meeting of Families in solidarity with others who value family life and its gifts for society. We hope to learn better ways of balancing work and celebration and especially of reclaiming Sunday as 'the day of the Lord'.

Through the inevitable ups and downs of daily life, Christian families who are conscious of their mission are like beacons for other families and consequently 'agents of evangelisation'. We see this period of preparation for the World Gathering as a timely challenge to make this a reality for ever more Australian families. ■

Una veduta della baia di Sidney con il Teatro dell'Opera

NEWS

■ FROM THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL

Card. Antonelli at the 47th Festival of Marriage

Cardinal president Ennio Antonelli in Barcelona, secretary Mons. Jean Laffitte in Cotonou, Benin, and the official Don Andrea Ciucci in Salerno are the three 'transfers' of the Pontifical Council for the Family which took place in January 2012. The Cardinal, in Barcelona for the 47th Festival of Marriage and the Family for new evangelisation, stressed firstly the 'historic turn' we're living in, the family in the original plan of the Creation - unity and fecundity, the Christian family as a domestic church, the social and charitable commitment of the family and pastoral priorities. In Cotonou, the secretary bishop Mons. Laffitte took part in the 10th Anniversary of the Fédération Africaine d'Action Familiale with Cardinal Robert Sarah. Don Ciucci spoke in Salerno during the second training meeting of the clergy of the archdiocese. All the news concerning the Pontifical Council for the Family is on www.familia.va.

work ethic involves an expectation that all family members will contribute to the daily tasks. No matter the age of the family member, they all have a job to do or a part to play in the family. We believe that a family that works together stays together.

A family that plays together also stays together. The recognition of the milestones of each family member are special celebrations. More challenging is the effort needed to spend the

“Outside work is for the purpose of supporting the family but all career-related decisions have to recognize the central importance of our family relationships”

evening meal together wherever possible. However it is this time just sitting together and listening to the events of each one's day that gives rise to the greatest feeling of family - a celebration of our lives together.

We need such bonding experiences to help carry us through the inevitable 'dark nights' that

arise from time to time. These are the times when we are in danger of losing hope or wondering where we have gone wrong.

When the family was younger, we had a tradition on a Sunday night to do something as a family - something simple such as playing board games together or

having round table discussions on something topical.

And running through all this is the powerful thread of family prayer. We make the effort to celebrate Sunday Mass together as a family. We rejoice with and gain strength from other families in this communal celebration. It is all part of the regular cycle of work and celebration.

Mark and Ursula Boyd of Yepoon (Rockhampton Diocese), Queensland, Australia

Provisional programme of the VII World Meeting of Families

	MAY Tuesday 29	MAY Wednesday 30	MAY Thursday 31	JUNE Friday 1	JUNE Saturday 2	JUNE Sunday 3
		Holy Mass in the Parishes	Holy Mass in the Parishes	Holy Mass in the Parishes		
MORNING	(Fieramilano city) • International Family Fair • Family bookshop	(Fieramilano city) • Theological Pastoral Congress • International Family Fair • Family bookshop	(Fieramilano city) • Theological Pastoral Congress • International Family Fair • Family bookshop	(Fieramilano city) • Theological Pastoral Congress • International Family Fair • Family bookshop	• International Family Fair • Family bookshop	
	Welcome of delegations and families Opening of the International Family Fair	Congress 9.30 Opening ceremony 10.00 Speech I 11.30 Speech II 13.00 Lunch break	Congress 9.30 Speech III 11.00 Speech IV 13.00 Lunch break	Congress 9.30 Speech V 11.00 Speech VI 13.00 Lunch break	Celebrations and meetings in the Parish churches either by movements or by specific groups	h.10.00: High Mass presided by Benedict XVI (Milano Parco Nord Aeroporto of Bresso)
AFTERNOON		(Fieramilano city) Debates, testimonies, round tables 15.00 Session I 17.00 Session II	(In Milan and in other Lombardy Dioceses) Meetings, debates, testimonies, round tables, workshops	(In various significant locations in Milan) Meetings, debates, testimonies, round tables, workshops	In the afternoon, proceed towards the venue of the event with the Pope	
				h. 20.00 Concert at La Scala (Delegations only)		
EVENING		Dinner with the host families or at Parish facilities	Dinner at the location of the afternoon events	Dinner with the host families or at Parish facilities	From late afternoon, time for gathering and preparation for meeting with the Pope	
		Welcome and celebrations in the host Parishes, Pastoral Communities, groups, associations and movements	Celebrations at the locations of the afternoon events	h.21.30 Eucharistic Adoration in the Duomo and in the main Basilicas and Churches of the Dioceses.	To follow: Feast of Testimonies with Benedict XVI (Milano Parco Nord Aeroporto of Bresso)	

APPEAL TO PEOPLE IN LOMBARDY

The Pope asks you to host pilgrims going to Milan

"I ask the families in Milan and Lombardy to open the doors of their homes to welcome pilgrims from all over the world. They will find joy and enthusiasm in the hospitality - it's wonderful getting to know people and making friends, talking to each other about family life and the experience of the Faith connected to it." Pope Benedict XVI called on families in Lombardy to welcome the faithful taking part in the VII World Meeting of Families with these words.

TOTAKE PART

Register on www.family2012.com You've got until 31 March 2012

Registration for the VII World Meeting of Families is via internet, go to www.family2012.com where you can register in Italian and another five languages, choose from the various 'hospitality packages' and complete the registration by payment on-line.

Choose from a 'long' stay (package 'A') with participation in the whole event, including the international theological-pastoral conference, side events and meetings with the Pope (30 May-3 June), and a 'short' stay (package 'B') just for the meetings with the Pope from 1-3 June.