

[Children] growing up in warm and friendly families, they learn to relate to the world in this way, without giving up their faith or their convictions. We know that Jesus himself ate and drank with sinners (cf. Mk 2:16; Mt 11:19), conversed with a Samaritan woman (cf. Jn 4:7-26), received Nicodemus by night (cf. Jn 3:1-21), allowed his feet to be anointed by a prostitute (cf. Lk 7:36-50) and did not hesitate to lay his hands on those who were sick (cf. Mk 1:40-45; 7:33). The same was true of his apostles, who did not look down on others, or cluster together in small and elite groups, cut off from the life of their people. Although the authorities harassed them, they nonetheless enjoyed the favour 'of all the people' (Acts 2:47; cf. 4:21, 33; 5:13).

AL, 289

[The Church must act] like the beacon of a lighthouse in a port or a torch carried among the people to enlighten those who have lost their way or who are in the midst of a storm. Let us not forget that the Church's task is often like that of a field hospital.

AL, 291

The way of the Church is not to condemn anyone for ever; it is to pour out the balm of God's mercy on all those who ask for it with a sincere heart ... there is a need 'to avoid judgements which do not take into account the complexity of various situations.

AL, 296

[M]oments of joy, relaxation, celebration, and even sexuality can be experienced as a sharing in the full life of the resurrection.

AL, 317

[T]o want to form a family is to resolve to be a part of God's dream, to choose to dream with [God], to want to build with [God], to join [God] in this saga of building a world where no one will feel alone.

AL, 321

Each of us is a 'fisher of men' (Lk 5:10) who in Jesus' name 'casts the nets' (cf. Lk 5:5) to others, or a farmer who tills the fresh soil of those whom he or she loves, seeking to bring out the best in them.

AL, 322

Our loved ones merit our complete attention. Jesus is our model in this, for whenever people approached to speak with him, he would meet their gaze, directly and lovingly (cf. Mk 10:21). No one felt overlooked in his presence, since his words and gestures conveyed the question: 'What do you want me to do for you?' (Mk 10:51) ... We are constantly reminded that each of those who live with us merits complete attention, since he or she possesses infinite dignity as an object of the Father's immense love. This gives rise to a tenderness which can 'stir in the other the joy of being loved. Tenderness is expressed in a particular way by exercising loving care in treating the limitations of the other, especially when they are evident'.

AL, 323

Led by the Spirit, the family circle is not only open to life by generating it within itself, but also by going forth and spreading life by caring for others and seeking their happiness. This openness finds particular expression in hospitality, which the word of God eloquently encourages: 'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for there-by some have entertained angels unawares' (Heb 13:2).

AL, 324

Let us keep walking together. What we have been promised is greater than we can imagine. May we never lose heart because of our limitations, or ever stop seeking that fullness of love and communion which God holds out before us.

AL, 325

Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love; to you we turn with trust. Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic churches. Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division; may all who have been hurt or scandalised find ready comfort and healing. Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Graciously hear our prayer. Amen.

AL, 325



© George Walsh • georgewwalsh@eircom.net

A National Competition for Religious Art in the Home

Inspirational Extracts

from

AMORIS LÆTITIA
by Pope Francis



Extracts from
AMORIS LÆTITIA
by Pope Francis

*To catch a thought,
To see an image,
To begin a response*

to a National Competition
for Religious Art in the Home

Organised by the Committee for
Sacred Art and Architecture of the
Irish Bishops' Conference
and the National Centre for Liturgy, 2017

To create a collection of limited editions
of bespoke, quality Religious Art
at reasonable price
for display and purchase at
the World Meeting of Families, Dublin, 2018

The details of the Competition will be posted on
liturgy-ireland.ie by 30 April 2017

E: liturgy@spcm.ie · T: (01) 708 3478
National Centre for Liturgy, St Patrick's College,
Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Extracts from *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis,
Dublin: Veritas, 2016
Full document available from veritas.ie
Cover Art: © George Walsh
georgewalsh@eircom.net

*Jesus himself is the shepherd of the hundred,
not just of the ninety-nine.*
[Amoris Laetitia, 309](#)

*Jesus knocks on the door of families, to share
with them the Eucharistic supper (cf. Rev 3:20).*
[AL, 318](#)

*God, who has sown so much good in others in
the hope that we will help make it grow.*
[AL, 322](#)

The tenderness of an embrace.
[AL, 27](#)

*[Jesus] 'looked upon the women and men
whom he met with love and tenderness,
accompanying their steps in truth, patience and
mercy as he proclaimed the demands of the
Kingdom of God'.*
[AL, 60](#)

*The family is the image of God, who is a
communion of persons.*
[AL, 71](#)

*The sacrament [of matrimony] is not a 'thing'
or a 'power', for in it Christ himself 'now
encounters Christian spouses ... He dwells with
them, gives them the strength to take up their
crosses and so follow him, to rise again after
they have fallen, to forgive one another, to bear
one another's burdens'.*
[AL, 73](#)

*To be open to a genuine encounter with others,
'a kind look' is essential.*
[AL, 100](#)

*'Joy' refers to an expansion of the heart. Saint
Thomas Aquinas*
[AL, 126](#)

*'Please', 'Thank you', 'Sorry'. Three essential
words!'*
[AL, 133](#)

*We have to put ourselves in their shoes and
try to peer into their hearts, to perceive their
deepest concerns and to take them as a point
of departure for further dialogue.*
[AL, 138](#)

*By their witness as well as their words, families
speak to others of Jesus.*
[AL, 184](#)

[A] new embrace between young and old!
[AL, 191](#)

*The elderly help us to appreciate 'the continuity
of the generations', by their 'charism of
bridging the gap'. Their words [grandparents],
their affection or simply their presence help
children to realise that history did not begin
with them, that they are now part of an age-old
pilgrimage and that they need to respect all
that came before them.*
[AL, 192](#)

*'Fraternity in families is especially radiant when
we see the care, the patience, the affection that
surround the little brother or sister who is frail,
sick or disabled'. It must be acknowledged that
'having a brother or a sister who loves you is
a profound, precious and unique experience'.
Children do need to be patiently taught to*

*treat one another as brothers and sisters. This
training, at times quite demanding, is a true
school of socialization.*
[AL, 195](#)

*I think of Saint Valentine's Day; in some
countries, commercial interests are quicker to
see the potential of this celebration than are we
in the Church.*
[AL, 208](#)

*In the life of married couples, even at difficult
moments, one person can always surprise
the other, and new doors can open for their
relationship, as if they were meeting for the first
time.*
[AL, 221](#)

*Young married couples ... a morning kiss,
an evening blessing, waiting at the door
to welcome each other home, taking trips
together and sharing household chores.*
[AL, 226](#)

*The word of God is the source of life and
spirituality for the family.*
[AL, 227](#)

*And how can we even begin to understand
the grief of parents who have lost a child? ...
Indeed, 'our loved ones are not lost in the
shades of nothingness; hope assures us that
they are in the good strong hands of God'.
[AL, 254, 256](#)*