



Outline articulated intervention

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Five years after the publication of *Amoris laetitia*, Pope Francis has called a special year dedicated to the revival of the document and all its contents and proposals, in correlation with the *Patris corde* with its references to the figure of St Joseph. This is a very fine initiative on the part of Pope Francis, useful for continuing to grow and spread the authentic sense of *Amoris laetitia* so that it may become an ever more fundamental factor of orientation and inspiration in the life of families and Christian communities.

In these five years, *Amoris laetitia* has given a new impetus to the attention paid to families, which in many parish and diocesan communities risked becoming rigid in pre-established, sectorial, pseudo-scholastic paths, incapable of perceiving the transformations taking place, helping instead to grasp not only the problematic features, but also the seeds of goodness kept in the present moment in the reality of families and encouraging openness towards many particular situations of family life often kept on the margins of the ecclesial community.

Amoris laetitia, with the two Synods that prepared it, was a powerful injection of vitality, a push to put the Gospel of the family back at the centre, starting from a renewed centrality of daily life, of daily love, making us rediscover that the family is a good of all and not only of some, reminding us that we all come from a family and that everyone must cherish the life of families welcomed as they are with their riches and their limitations.

Of course there has been no lack of resistance. Particularly those who tend to bring all the novelties back to paths and proposals already given, already widely practised without particular success, preferring abstract and declamatory approaches to getting involved, to standing by young families, families in difficulty, lonely people, the isolation of many families.

Certainly pastoral discernment with regard to the various family situations, especially difficult ones, in some cases struggles to grow, both because of the objective difficulty of assessing ever new cases, and because of the inability to break out of past patterns so consolidated that they have become impervious to anything new, always looking for formulas to apply to a reality that is

now resisting and that it would be better to accompany from within, trying to make the good that already exists grow.

Catholic Action has welcomed with great joy the gift of *Amoris laetitia* and has not struggled to tune in to the message of the exhortation that it naturally felt as its own: the rediscovery of attention to families, bringing to each one the proclamation of the beauty of the Gospel, of the joy that flows abundantly from the Gospel if we manage not to create blocks and obstructions.

Catholic Action already has in its constituent heritage, in its recent and past experiences, all the elements on which to leverage to relaunch its passion for families in this special year, also in connection with the beautiful indications of the *Patris corde*: the unitary perspective (everyone can feel at home as in a family, from the youngest to the oldest, with attention to all), which also means an adequate intergenerational perspective (an element even more to be valued, without detracting from the specific paths), rootedness in a parish community and within a territory that allows effective proximity and participation in the life of all (the dimension of popularity also plays an important role from this point of view, the passion for daily life, which knows how to combine weekdays and holidays) but also knowing how to be involved at all levels of ecclesial life and of the "whole world", the very rich educational heritage to be considered not only an asset for internal use, but increasingly to be made available to families for its value, both religious and social, and many experiences of service and witness in the most diverse environments of life.