



# Catholic Diocese of Victoria

Office of the Bishop

1-4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria, BC V8X 2A1 - Tel: 250-479-1331 - Fax: 250-479-5423 - Web: redvictoria.org

## M E M O

**DATE:** December 20, 2017  
**TO:** Pastors, Principals, Teachers, and all support staff  
**FROM:** Bishop Gary Gordon  
**RE:** Feast of the Holy Family, December 31, 2017

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The Feast Day of the Holy Family, which will be celebrated on Sunday, December 31, 2017, invites us to consider the source and foundation of life and love for our times. In the last three years, the Church has lived and experienced two Extraordinary Synods dedicated to the family and holy matrimony. From these Synods, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has given the Church a beautiful Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*.

I thank God that many families, which are far from considering themselves perfect, live in love, fulfill their calling and keep moving forward, even if they fall many times along the way. The Synod's reflections show us that there is no stereotype of the ideal, but rather a challenging mosaic made up of many different realities, with all their joys, hopes and problems.

2016 Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, no. 57, p. 41

The CCCB Office of Evangelization has produced a Webinar and Study-Guide on *Amoris Laetitia* to help all the faithful in growing and living the one gift that was not forfeited by original sin: marriage and family. This resource consists of nine 7-8 minute videos as well as discussion guides. It is designed to be used by individuals in their homes or in groups gathered in diocesan, parish or school settings.

- You may access the English video series by clicking here:  
<http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/office-for-evangelization-and-catechesis/4847-amoris-laetitia-webcast-series-english>
- You may access the French video series by clicking here:  
<http://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/office-for-evangelization-and-catechesis/4848-amoris-laetitia-webcast-series-english>

I strongly urge and pray that you will encourage all the faithful of the Church here in our Diocese to use this resource to share and celebrate in the joy of love, evangelization, and healing for our families.