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Nucleus 19°

Under the care of Gabriela Patiño

Sr. Maria Luisa Miranda, Councilor for the Salesian Family, offers us some words in this nineteenth Nucleus. In it we find a valid help to continue our reflection on the family, taking cues from the new Statute and underlining the importance of working with the family, already present in its origins and today so timely and urgent, in the mission of our Association, in the pastoral commitment of the Church and the Salesian Family.

While we thank Sr. Maria Luisa for her clear and important indications, let us allow ourselves to be guided by them to open ourselves to further personal and group insights with the desire to arrive at good practices in our concrete places.

The Family, a place of priority in the mission of the FMA Past Pupils Association

In the introduction that Mother Yvonne Reungoat makes to the new Statute of the Association, she exhorts: With Mary, be close to lonely families, in need of care, attention, concrete help. You, yourselves, be a family within the great family of Don Bosco.

None of us are unaware that the family as an institution today has been deeply questioned as never before in history.

Nevertheless, the last Popes, like every Rector Major, have given priority attention to the theme of the family, due to the transcendence it has for society. A sign of this priority is the stenna of the current Rector Major which has as its theme: ¡WE ARE FAMILY! Every home, a school of life and love.

The Church has allowed herself to be deeply challenged by all these phenomena and wanted to respond with a Synod in which she could experience a great openness to dialogue by asking those who live the experience of the family experiencing its joys and bitterness.

A careful and profound reading of the Exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" will help us to understand the urgency of this specific field of the family, in which Don Rinaldi, at the time, asked the Past Pupils to pay special attention. From this perspective, I wish to underline some paths proposed by the Exhortation itself

ANNOUNCE: that God himself is family in nature, that man was created in his image and because it is in the family that we become persons, where we learn to live and where we begin to know God. Underline the importance of proclaiming the beauty of the family, especially to young people and denounce everything that threatens it. It is important then, in the communication strategies that we must adopt, to select those things that must be reiterated.

FORM: In these times of confusion, times of new structures and dynamics within families, we cannot leave behind the task of formation, but strengthen and expand it. We must do much work among both men and women, on family ties and show the necessary steps for an emotional maturation. It would seem that today everyone is knowledgeable and knows everything, but nothing is more deceptive and misleading. It is important to talk about the rules of ethics and morals that guide attitudes according to the dignity of the person. We need to find formative paths to educate "to love" in the different stages of life and above all to create the conditions for valid and happy marriages to be born and consolidated.

ACCOMPANY: Learn how God accompanies his people and each of us with great patience, closeness and respect. Accompanying people and families to take their personal and family history, to find the balance between the affections and the bonds that are established between pleasure and duty; desire and social responsibility; between loving each other and respecting the dignity of the other by honoring the word and the commitments undertaken. For this accompaniment of individuals, couples and families, knowledge and competence and great respect for the freedom of others are needed.

I consider it necessary to concretize the three aspects that I have enunciated so that they become opportunities for the commitment of the Association.

- The emotional education of adolescents and young people. Pope Francis, on his visit to Turin, left us this affective education of young people as an important task and expression of the Salesian charism. It is an urgent, but difficult and delicate aspect, which requires wisdom and not just education or occasional advice. The Salesian Family is called to combine pedagogical and theological resources to offer clear proposals that can be made at least within our families and educational environments
- Accompaniment of young people to marriage. The Exhortation "Amoris Laetitia" placed a strong emphasis on this point. They cannot be "homogeneous courses" for many different situations. Sometimes they are young couples, on other occasions they are those who already live together and with families. Special commitment requires the Christian concept of paternity, motherhood; the in-depth study in which couples find themselves, etc. It is important to offer new couples a "support network" that will support them in their commitment to contract in a world hostile to the Christian concept of marriage and family.
- I work in synergy with the local church, other groups of the Salesian Family and organizations with sensitivity to these problems. After the Synod, the pastoral care of the family has a new strength and urgency and the Associations are called to give a new response. Fr Angel Fernández A., tells us in the presentation of the Statute: "today more than ever a good education for children, boys, girls and young people is urgent following the methodology and spirituality of the Preventive System that Don Bosco left us as an inheritance. This will be a challenge for you in the light of your Statute, because the family is the primary place of humanization and evangelization "

It seems to me important to also remember the irreplaceable role that grandparents play in families today. Many members of the Association find themselves in this stage of life. Let us encourage them to live this very important apostolate in the bosom of the family.

In the document *AL* we read in this regard: *The elderly help to perceive "the continuity of generations", with "the charism of mending tears". Many times it is grandparents who ensure the transmission of great values to their grandchildren and "many people can see that it is to grandparents that they owe their initiation into the Christian life". Their words, their caresses or their mere presence help children to recognize that history does not begin with them, that they are the heirs of a long journey and that we must respect the background that precedes us. Those who break ties with history will have a hard time weaving stable relationships and recognizing that they are not the masters of reality.*

WORKSHEET FOR THE CONFEDERAL, FEDERATION, UNION COUNCILS AND FOR ALL PUPILS OF THE WORLD.

Read the reflection offered to us by Sr. Maria Luisa with openness and attention. Sharing in a group three ideas, of the text, which they consider important. Identify a concrete practice to be carried out in the Union or Federation.

Please send your personal or group response by e-mail to delegatamondialeexallieve@gmail.com by regular mail to the address:
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Pray together

The Gift of Marriage

Lord, marriage is your gift to us,
not something obvious or taken for granted.
We therefore ask you
to help us in our relationship as man and woman together.
Help us respect each other
and to strive to grasp the other's point of view.
Let there be tenderness and honesty between us,
understanding and a pinch of humor
together with the ability to admit that sometimes we can be wrong.
And make ourselves available to share our happiness with others,
opening our house
worrying about their joys and their sorrows,
like ours.
Thank you for giving us this precious gift.
Help us put it to good use. Amen