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From +John...

Tēnā koutou katoa e hoa ma

Tomorrow I fly out on my way to Dublin to participate in the World Meeting of Families, and feel very privileged to be able to do so. This is an event held every three years to provide inspiration for families to live the Gospel in daily life, with all its challenges and difficulties, its joys, hopes and sorrows. It is also a time to celebrate and give thanks for family life.

The overall theme for this year's gathering is "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World." The week will consist of a three day Congress with the themes for each day being "The Family and Faith," "The Family and Love," and "The Family and Hope." The following days will be spent with Pope Francis celebrating the Festival of Families on the Saturday and then the Final Mass on Sunday.

I am telling you this because I am also asking for your prayers for the success of this event where families gather from all over the world. Much of the information shared will be based on "Amoris Laetitia – The Joy of Love" of Pope Francis. This is a wonderful document in which the Holy Father encourages us to accompany families in the many different and sometimes very difficult situations they find themselves in. He asks us not to judge others but to recognise that "No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed." (A L 325) Sadly, this is a document which is not fully understood, yet all Pope Francis is attempting to do is to encourage and support families.

Prayers are needed for this event and for the Holy Father. Perhaps you would like to pray the official Family Prayer for the World Meeting of Families for 2018

God, our Father,
We are brothers and sisters in Jesus your Son,
One family, in the Spirit of your love.
Bless us with the joy of love.

Make us patient and kind,
gentle and generous,
welcoming to those in need.
Help us to live your forgiveness and peace.
Protect all families with your loving care,
Especially those for whom we now pray:

[We pause and remember family members and others by name].

Increase our faith,
Strengthen our hope,
Keep us safe in your love, make us always grateful for the gift of life that we share.

This we ask, through Christ our Lord, Amen

With all good wishes and every blessing
Kia tau ngā manaakitanga o te Ariki ki runga i

+John

- **2019 Aotearoa New Zealand Ordo.** All clergy wanting a copy of the Ordo for next year please contact Cathie Nicol, nicol@nzcbc.org.nz stating your name, email address, postal address, phone number and the number of Ordos required. **Please note** the administration office at the Catholic Centre DOES NOT order these for you. The cost for next year's Ordo is \$25.00.
- Congratulations to Marie Paurini, Kathryn van Woerkom and Elizabeth Wootton on their commissioning on Tuesday 14th as Hospital Chaplains for Kenepuru, Lower Hutt and Wellington Hospitals.
- Tuesday 18th September is our next Ministry Formation Day to be held at St Bernadette's Naenae. This day is open to all Clergy, Lay Pastoral Leaders, Principals and DRSS. The theme is "Stewardship" and will focus on how we use Stewardship to encourage and promote "Intentional Discipleship." We have some exciting and vibrant speakers giving input.

"To love God above all things, to love all people as oneself, to give one's heart and soul, one's mind and strength in order to make people better and happier, that is life, that is the law, that is happiness, justice and truth."

Suzanne Aubert