



Senior Cycle

Moment Four: Families of Joy

Keywords:

CATECHESIS
INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION
CONGRESS
PROPHETIC
HOMELY GESTURE
DIVISIONS
PROPHETS
MIRACLES
SCANDAL
IMPATIENT
PROCLAMATION
ABSURD DICHOTOMIES

What is the World Meeting of Families?

W

Watch: worldmeeting2018.ie/en/About/About-WMOF2018 (3 minutes 9 seconds)

Pope John Paul II established the first World Meeting of Families in 1994. This took place in Rome and was a celebration of the importance of marriage and family life in our society, and in the life of the Church. It takes place every three years as an international celebration of the joy of marriage and family life.

A

Activity

Visit the website for the World Meeting of Families 2018 (worldmeeting2018.ie). Create a timeline representing the history of the World Meeting of Families. This should include the dates and places the congress has occurred and identify the pope at the time of each meeting.

What is going to happen in Ireland for the World Meeting of Families?

21 August 2017	Launch of a one-year programme in Knock in preparation for the congress
21 August 2018	National opening of the World Meeting of Families 2018 in Dublin
22–25 August 2018	Three-day congress in Dublin, including prayer, celebration and catechesis
26 August 2018	Festival of Families
27 August 2018	Solemn Eucharistic Celebration (hopefully Pope Francis will be in attendance)



In his homily at the last World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, Pope Francis spoke about how we experience 'homely gestures' in our families, such as a hug at the end of a day, or a meal ready when we arrive home. He then goes on to say the following:

We Christians, the Lord's **disciples**, ask the families of the world to help us! How many of us are here at this celebration! This is itself something **prophetic**, a kind of **miracle** in today's world, which is tired of inventing new **divisions**, new hurts, new disasters. Would that we could all be **prophets**! Would that all of us could be open to miracles of love to **benefit** our own families and all the families of the world, and thus overcome the **scandal** of a narrow, **petty** love, closed in on itself, **impatient** of others! I leave you with a question for each of you to answer – because I said the word 'impatient': at home do we shout at one another or do we speak with love and tenderness? This is a good way of measuring our love.

A

Activity

Read the above quote from Pope Francis and, with a partner, do the following:

- With the help of a dictionary, define the underlined words.
- Explain what you think Pope Francis means by 'new divisions, new hurts and new disasters'.
- Give some examples of 'miracles of love that would benefit our own families'.
- Give some examples of 'miracles of love that would benefit our own families and all the families of the world'.
- Answer the question that Pope Francis asked of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia: 'At home do we shout at one another or do we speak with love and tenderness?' Identify areas that you may like to work on in relation to this.
- Explain what Pope Francis means when he says, 'How many of us are here at this celebration? This in itself is something prophetic, a kind of miracle in today's world.'

Over the last three years, Catholic Schools Week has really focused on and been inspired by three important documents written by Pope Francis:

- *Evangelii Gaudium* (On the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World)
- *Laudato Si'* (Care for Our Common Home)
- *Amoris Laetitia* (On Love in the Family)

These three documents are not simply documents to be read; they are documents that call us, as Christians, into action. We need to share the Gospel with the world, we need to look after our common home and we need to identify the importance of love in marriage and the family. Pope Francis shows us that it is very simple. If we treat everyone like our brothers and sisters, our sons or our daughters, we will be bringing the Gospel to life. We will be living the 'Joy of the Gospel' and the world would be a better place.

R

Reflective Exercise

Take a few moments to reflect on how you are going to live Pope Francis' message in your family. Remember, we cannot control what other people do or how they respond to us. In your copies, write down the things that you are going to do to share the Gospel in your family. (Note: It is a difficult task!)



Who is Pope Francis?



W

Watch: [biography.com/people/pope-francis-21152349](https://www.biography.com/people/pope-francis-21152349) (3 minutes 6 seconds)

D

Discussion

In the video, Pope Francis is called the 'hope and change of the Vatican'.

- Discuss the meaning of this statement and the areas that you feel need his change.
- List some things that Pope Francis has already changed for the better.

A

Activity

Look at the following pictures and identify which pope owns which shoes.



D

Discussion

What statement are the shoes making?



Extension Exercise

We live in a consumerist society. What changes could a person make to show that they are opposed to a consumerist lifestyle? Record your ideas in your copy.



Watch: josemariaescriva.info/article/pope-francis5c27-eight-tips-to-improve-family-life (4 minutes 52 seconds)

Pope Francis' eight tips to improve family life can be summarised as:

1. Argue as much as you want but make peace at the end of each day
2. To make peace takes a small gesture
3. Learn about forgiveness through reading the Bible
4. Strive – work hard at your relationships
5. Throw yourself into parenthood
6. Make time for your children
7. Children – do not misuse technology
8. Grandparents/elderly relations are very important



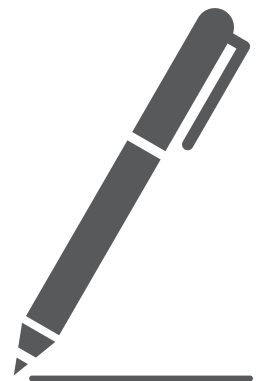
Discussion

What are your opinions on Pope Francis' eight tips for improving family life?



Extension Exercise

Based on your experience of family life, write eight tips of your own to improve family life.





W

Watch: youtu.be/sGH20H8AV2U (2 minutes 3 seconds)

In the video Pope Francis says the following:

There are those who believe you can have a personal, direct and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ outside of the communion and mediation of the Church ... these are dangerous ... In the words of Pope Paul VI '**absurd dichotomies**'.

Even though the language of this may look difficult, the message is simple. We must realise that it is not just about 'me'. Life is about being family, both in our homes and in the world. We cannot be selfish or closed. We must always see ourselves as member of something bigger: as brothers and sisters, sons and daughters.

D

Discussion

Discuss the above quote and, as a class, in your own words explain its message.

A

Activity

Imagine that the role of pope was a job that could be applied for.

- In groups, write Jorge Mario Bergoglio's CV. Include all information regarding his education, the positions he has held and the documents that he has written. List the skills that Jorge has for the position being advertised.
- Individually, write a personal reference for Jorge Mario Bergoglio. Outline all of his achievements and state why he would be the best candidate for the job.

R

Reflective Exercise

It is hoped that Pope Francis will travel to Ireland for the World Meeting of Families 2018. Compose an invitation for Pope Francis to come and visit your family. He will only be able to visit a few families, so you must convince him that yours would be a good family to visit.

