

SECTION 41:
THE WAY OF DAILY LOVE
IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

Part 3: Love is not jealous

In his letter “*Evangelii Gaudium*,” “the Joy of the Gospel,” Pope Francis has laid down some principles of how to live and build up Church communities, based on Gospel-values. All Church communities, he states, should become places of “*mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel*” (EG 114).

In “*Amoris Laetitia*”, “the Joy of Love,” the Pope applies this principle to families, because Christian families, he says, are “*domestic churches*” or “*home churches*.” The Pope writes: “*The Church is a family of families, constantly enriched by the lives of all these domestic churches*” (AL 87). He continues: “*Through their union in love, the couple experiences the beauty of parenthood, and shares plans, trials, expectations and concerns; they learn care for one another and mutual forgiveness. In this love, they celebrate their happy moments and they support each other in the difficult passages of their life together*” (AL 88).

True love is indispensable for family life, as well as “*for the Church and for society as a whole*.” Following St. Paul, Pope Francis states that opposing true love is “*an attitude of being jealous or envious*.” “*Envy is a form of sadness provoked by another’s prosperity*,” he says. “*It shows that we are only concerned with our own well-being and not with the happiness of others. True love makes us rise above ourselves, while envy closes us in on ourselves. True love frees us from the sour taste of envy and values the other person’s achievements*” (AL 95).

And the Pope concludes: “*Everyone has different gifts and a unique path in life. So true love strives to discover its own road to happiness, while allowing others to find theirs*” (AL 95).

A REFLECTIVE MOMENT

*“Love inspires a sincere esteem for every human being
and the recognition of his or her own right to happiness.*

I love this person,

and I see him or her with the eyes of God,

who gives us everything

“for our enjoyment” (1 Tim 6:17).

As a result, I feel a deep sense of happiness and peace.

This same deeply rooted love also leads me

to reject injustice

whereby some possess too much and others too little.

It moves me to find ways of helping society’s outcasts

to find a little bit of joy.

That is not envy, but the desire for equality.”

(Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia n. 96).