

Why Pope Francis letter “Joy of Love” is a great gift of God that should be read and cherished by everyone. By Mr. Guy Murphy OP 4/23/16

What Saint John Paul II the Great started with Theology in the Body, Pope Francis is crowning with the Letter or book on “Joy of Love.”

In a profound and needed way this gift from God through the Vicar of Christ’s office gives the Christian Family back its identity.

Since the era of St. John Paul II, it is getting obvious that the laity of Jesus’ Church is moving from a childhood relationship stage with God into an adolescent’s stage. When a child knows what rules to follow, but does not understand why, he can act like a robot. As he gets older and tries to make big decisions he fails miserably. Similarly, when the sexual revolution tempted the Lay faithful in the 1960’s we failed miserably.

Pope Francis describes the Christian Family with such enlightening details that those who read it will understand who the Christian Family is and what the Lord expects from them. They will appreciate their great contribution to society and have confidence that through Jesus’ grace, their actions are very pleasing to our Heavenly Father.

Pope Francis describes in great detail, what love is and what love is not and gives several examples.

The letter/book is 250 pages and consist of an eight-chapter journey.

This is my two-page summary. I hope it inspires you to read the whole “Joy of Love”. It is full of wisdom and goodness. I hope you enjoy the fullness of life through its teachings.

The first chapter is all about the **family** as described in the **Bible**. “spoken of by Christ himself: Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female?”

We hear an echo of the command found in the Book of Genesis: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (Gen 2:24).

The word of God tells us that the family is entrusted to a man, a woman and their children, so that they may become a communion of persons in the image of the union of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Begetting and raising children, for its part, mirrors God’s creative work.

The second chapter discusses the **experience** and **family challenges**.

The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the Church.

“The tensions created by an overly individualistic culture, caught up with possessions and pleasures, leads to intolerance and hostility in families”.

They also expressed concern about the current “spread of pornography and the commercialization of the body.”

“of the great poverty of contemporary culture is loneliness, arising from the absence of God in a person’s life and the fragility of relationships.”

The third chapter discusses that **Jesus Christ** will give all the power to **overcome difficulties** and bring us peace and joy in Marriage.

Our teaching on marriage and the family cannot fail to be inspired and transformed by this message of love and tenderness; otherwise, it becomes nothing more than the defense of a dry and lifeless doctrine.

This is the mystery of Christmas and the secret of Nazareth, exuding the beauty of family life! It was this that so fascinated Francis of Assisi,

“When faced with difficult situations and wounded families,,, **while clearly stating the Church’s teaching**, pastors are to avoid judgements that do not take into account the complexity of various situations, and they are to be attentive, by necessity, to how people experience and endure distress because of their condition”.

Nonetheless, the conjugal union is ordered to procreation “by its very nature” ,,,, From the outset, love refuses every impulse to close in on itself; it is open to a fruitfulness that draws it beyond itself. Hence no genital act of husband and wife can refuse this meaning, 86 even when for various reasons it may not always in fact beget a new life. 81. A child deserves to be born of that love, and not by any other means, for “he or she is not something owed to one, but is a gift”.

It is a horrendous contradiction when it becomes a place where life is rejected and destroyed.

So great is the value of a human life, and so inalienable the right to life of an innocent child growing in the mother's womb, that no alleged right to one's own body can justify a decision to terminate that life, which is an end in itself and which can never be considered the "property" of another human being. The family protects human life in all its stages, including its last. Consequently, "those who work in healthcare facilities are reminded of the moral duty of conscientious objection.

Schools do not replace parents, but complement them. This is a basic principle: "all other participants in the process of education are only able to carry out their responsibilities in the name of the parents, with their consent and, to a certain degree, with their authorization".⁹⁷ Still, "a rift has opened up between the family and society, between family and the school; the educational pact today has been broken and thus the educational alliance between society and the family is in crisis".

The fourth chapter discusses **love in marriage. Love is patient, kind**, love is not jealous, boastful.

We encounter problems whenever we think that relationships or people ought to be perfect, or when we put ourselves at the center and expect things to turn out our way. Then everything makes us impatient, everything makes us react aggressively. Unless we cultivate patience, we will always find excuses for responding angrily. We will end up incapable of living together, antisocial, unable to control our impulses, and our families will become battlegrounds.

The family must always be a place where, when something good happens to one of its members, they know that others will be there to celebrate it with them. Love bears all things.

Loving another person involves the joy of contemplating and appreciating their innate beauty and sacredness, which is greater than my needs. This enables me to seek their good even when they cannot belong to me.

God himself created sexuality, which is a marvelous gift to his creatures. If this gift needs to be cultivated and directed, it is to prevent the "impoverishment of an authentic value"

The fifth chapter discusses fruitfulness of love. Love always gives life.

The sixth chapter discusses some **pastoral** perspectives and **advice** on how to share Christ's love; **programs** that reach out and are **effective**.

The seventh chapter discusses **better education** of children, where they stand in terms of their convictions, goals, desires and dreams. The questions I would put to parents are these: "Do we seek to understand 'where' our children really are in their journey? **Where is their soul**,

The eighth chapter discusses accompanying, discerning and integrating weakness. Although she constantly holds up the **call to perfection** and asks for a fuller response to God, "the Church must accompany with attention and care the weakest of her children, who show signs of a wounded and troubled love, by restoring in them hope and confidence, like the beacon of a lighthouse in a port or a torch carried among the people to enlighten those who have lost their way or who are in the midst of a storm."

That is how Jesus treated the Samaritan woman.

Conclusion: After all the speculation about Pope Francis' Letter, the faithful who read the letter were greatly pleased to hear Pope Francis confirm over 100 times that a Christian marriage has always been and will always be between one man and one woman. Pope Francis strongly supports all the church teachings.

The entire document is a masterpiece of light for our darkened and confused world.

Some Pharisees had objections to Jesus for curing on the Sabbath. Jesus let them know that their way is not God's way of thinking. Jesus reveals the simple truth through which people of good will can grow.

Jesus gave the keys to the kingdom to His Vicar in Matthew 16. "What you bind on earth is bound in Heaven."

Jesus teaches us and inspires His Vicar to teach us as well. Read "Joy of Love" Praise the Lord!