

Dear Life, Justice & Peace Ministers,

Synods on the Family: October 5 will mark the beginning of the first of two synods devoted to the pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization. It will last until Oct. 19. A second synod will take place in October 2015. It is not expected that there will be any official documents issued on the outcome of the discussions until sometime in 2016. The USCCB has prepared a video on Pope Francis' letter to families on the synod.

<http://youtu.be/c8MceXnMz1k?list=UU5bJUUNiKh3aQxDaTq0RVA>. Other information and resources about the 2014-2015 Synods of Bishops on the Family can be found on the [USCCB website](#).

World Meeting of Families: Next September, American Catholics will have a unique opportunity to participate in a global meeting of Catholics focused on marriage and the family. It's called the **World Meeting of Families** and will take place in **Philadelphia, Sept. 22-27, 2015**. The theme for the World Meeting is *Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive*. Although not officially announced yet, **Pope Francis** will preside over the closing Mass. Even if no one in your parish can travel to Philadelphia, there are a number of ways to make use of the many excellent resources accompanying the [World Meeting of Families](#), including:

Parish Resource Guide - You will find many resources that will help your parish community prepare for the 8th World Meeting of Families, September 22-27, 2015. These resources will help everyone in your parish begin reflecting upon the beauty and joy of God's plan for marriage and family life in anticipation of the teachings, activities, and celebrations at the World Meeting of Families event. The Guide has special prayers, bulletin announcements, adult faith formation curriculum, and suggestions for using the Preparatory Catechesis (see next item).

Preparatory Catechesis - The official catechesis of the World Meeting of Families--Philadelphia 2015 is now available in both English and Spanish! The catechesis is available to buy through the WMF website or Our Sunday Visitor, the official publisher of the catechesis. There are also downloadable **lesson plans for elementary and high school**.

In Christ's peace,
Jim

Jim Thomas

Director of Life, Justice & Peace
and Family Life
Archdiocese of Seattle

"The Christian life...
is a gift, it is love,...
[it is] self-giving."

710 - 9th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-2017

Dir. (206) 382-4268

Toll-free (800) 950-4970

Fax (206) 264-2084

www.seattlearchdiocese.org/cst

www.seattlearchdiocese.org/FamilyLife

e

~Pope Francis

.....