



Ten years after *Amoris laetitia*: *proclaiming the Gospel with families today*

Meeting of the Holy Father Leo XIV
with the Heads of Eastern Churches
and the Presidents of Episcopal Conferences

7-14 October 2026

Greeting Address to the Holy Father Leo XIV

Wednesday, 7 October 2026

H.Em. Card. Kevin Farrell

Holy Father,

It is a great honor for me to welcome you here today and to extend greetings on behalf of all those present at this meeting, entitled: “Ten Years Since *Amoris Laetitia*: Proclaiming the Gospel with Families Today.”

Your presence among us is a source of immense joy and lends special significance to the days of work that lie ahead.

As Your Holiness noted in your Message of March 19 2026, “Since the Council, the two Apostolic Exhortations, *Familiaris Consortio* [...] and *Amoris Laetitia*, have both strengthened the Church’s doctrinal and pastoral commitment to the service of young people, married couples and families.”

Now is the time to reflect on the journey we have undertaken in our Churches, to look ahead to the challenges that await us, and to ask ourselves what might make the proclamation of the Gospel more relevant to families, so that they may rediscover and live out their Christian vocation with greater awareness.

I also thank the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences and the Heads of the Eastern Churches, the married couples, the experts, and all those who have been called to take part in this Meeting.

We are living in a time of rapid cultural and social transformations, which have profoundly shaped the reality of the family over the past ten years. In many contexts, secularization, individualism, the pervasiveness of technology, and the gradual weakening of the transmission of the faith within families are accompanied by new questions about the meaning of life and, at the same time, by a desire for authentic, lasting, and fruitful relationships.

Catechesis, essential to Christian formation, remains indispensable, but in many contexts it cannot, on its own, sustain the transmission of the faith and the development of a personal relationship with God among the younger generations.

Indeed, we cannot take for granted the family and social environment that in the past contributed, almost naturally, to preserving Christian life within the family. It is within the family that relationships, emotions, faith, and life choices take shape. Building strong and authentically Christian families is the prerequisite for having, in the near future, a Church that is alive and firmly rooted in

the Gospel. This is the responsibility we feel entrusted to our pastoral care and which we wish to fulfill with renewed commitment.

Thank you, Your Holiness, once again for your presence and for the attentive care you have shown to families around the world since the beginning of your pontificate.

We now prepare to listen to your words, and we ask You to bless us, so that the Holy Spirit may make us ready to welcome whatever the Lord wishes to show us regarding the future of families and the entire Church.