



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

[ORIGINAL TEXT: Italian. Working translation]

Welcome address

Wednesday, 7 October 2026

H.Em.R. Card. Mario Grech

Welcome! It is with great joy, warmth and sincere gratitude that we greet you. Your presence here is not only an opportunity for encounter and dialogue, but also carries a profound ecclesial significance.

First of all, this is because the family holds a central place in the life of the Church and of society. But there is also a second reason: you have come to this meeting with the Holy Father not in a personal capacity, but as representatives of your respective episcopates and, through them, of the local Churches, which are the lifeblood of the universal Church. You bring with you the hopes, challenges, joys and concerns of so many families that make up Christian communities throughout the world.

This responsibility is certainly great, but equally great is the hope it inspires. Responsibility calls us to fidelity, listening and discernment; hope, in turn, opens us to the action of the Holy Spirit, who continues to guide the Church along the paths of her mission.

I now invite Cardinal Kevin Farrell, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family and Life, to offer his greeting.