



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

Introduction to the theme of the day

Friday, 9 October 2026

H.Em. Card. Kevin Farrell

Young people and the discovery of the vocation to marriage

We cannot ignore the fact that the number of marriages is currently declining throughout the world, both civil marriages and marriages celebrated in the Church. We will seek to interpret this phenomenon, taking into account whether its causes are the same everywhere.

Pastors are not alone in facing this concern. It is felt first and foremost by the many Christian parents whose children suffer from loneliness, remain hesitant to make a lasting commitment, or categorically reject the path that their parents themselves had embraced with joy.

There are, of course, many factors to consider: the number of divorces, the variety of forms of life as a couple, and the influence of prevailing cultural trends.

But at a deeper level, we might ask whether God has perhaps ceased to speak to the hearts of young people, stirring in them a desire for marriage. We will look for signs of hope and consider the spaces, initiatives, people or events that can open up new paths towards marriage. We will also consider how attentive our communities are to the witness of those who, despite everything, choose marriage – whether early in life or later on – and how their experience can help us understand and present the vocation to marriage more effectively.