

# Familiaris Consortio 1-41

## Introduction

1. The Church wishes to speak the truth about the family.
- 2.
3. Only through acceptance of the Gospel will man's hope in the family be fulfilled.

## Part One: Bright Spots and Shadows for the Family Today

### (A). Need to Understand the Situation

4. The Church must understand the present situation of marriage and the family.
5. This understanding arises through faith and the Spirit's gift to clergy and laity.

### (B). Present Situation

6. Positive (awareness of personal freedom and interpersonal relationships, responsible procreation, education) and negative aspects (mistaken independence, view of authority, transmission of values, divorce, abortion, contraception, poverty)
7. Cultural and societal circumstances influence even the consciences of the faithful

### (C). Need to respond

8. Need for recovery of wisdom and moral values.
9. Need for conversion of mind and heart.

## Part Two: The Plan of God for Marriage and the Family

10. **Two fundamental ways of love**

### (I) Marriage

(Marriage as communion)

11. Love is man's fundamental vocation. The vocation to love in totality is realized in marriage or celibacy. Marriage follows from this plan of God for man's love.
12. Marriage is a proclamation of God's love for his people.  
(Marriage as sacrament)
13. In their marriage, a Christian man and woman, placed within the spousal covenant of Christ and the Church, love each other with the love of Christ, and their communion of love becomes a sacramental sign of Christ's union with the Church.  
Family: (Marriage and Children)
14. Marriage and conjugal love are ordered to the procreation and education of children, and find their crowning in them, though the communion of life still has meaning and value when it is not possible to have children.
15. Christian marriage builds upon the human and the ecclesial community.

### (II) And Celibacy

16. Virginity or celibacy presupposes and witnesses to the dignity of marriage; celibacy bears witness to the future resurrection and the supremacy of God above all.

## Part Three: The Role of the Christian Family

17. The family's mission correspond to its nature: it is called to become ever more a community of life and love
- (I). Forming a Community of Persons
18. Love is the principle and goal of communion
- (A) The form of the community
- Fundamental communion is that of husband and wife
19. The equal dignity of man and woman, and the complete self-giving requires unity of marriage (one man and one woman)
  20. Moreover this completeness, as well as the good of the children, requires indissolubility.  
The family
  21. Upon the conjugal communion is built the communion of the family
- (B) Parts of the community
- Women
22. Men and women have equal dignity, as reason may recognize and as is taught by the word of God.
  23. Public roles should be fully open to women, yet clear recognition should be given to the particular value of their familial and maternal role.
  24. Women are offended by the mentality that treats humans as things, by discrimination, etc.
- Men
25. As husband and father, the man should love his wife and children, and appreciate his role in the family.
- Children
26. Every child should be esteemed and loved, especially in a Christian family.
- Elderly
27. The elderly in the family should be specially venerated and loved, and play a particular role within the family.
- (II) Serving Life
- (1). The transmission of life.
28. Procreation is a share in God's creative blessing, and a sign of conjugal love.
  29. The Church reaffirms her teaching on the transmission of life, particularly that conjugal love must be open to new life.
  30. Anti-life mentality comes from God's absence from people's hearts. Yet human life is always a gift of God's goodness.
  31. In the face of the many modern problems, it is importance to illustrate the biblical foundations, ethical grounds, and personalistic reasons for this doctrine.
  32. The union of the conjugal act, loving self-giving, and procreation is founded in an integral vision of the human person in God's plan.
  33. The Church teaches the moral norm, and seeks to provide lovingly for her children.
  34. God's plan for the transmission of life in the family is included in their call to holiness.
  35. Moral practical help and witness should be given married persons.
- (2) Education
36. Parents have the first right and duty to educate their children.
  37. Parents must educate their children in the essential values of life: justice, but above all love, in particular as regards sexuality, in which it pertains especially to parents to educate their children.
  38. The sacrament of marriage makes parents' education of their children a true "ministry" of the Church.
  39. The family is the first school of following Christ.
  40. Parents have a right and duty to have an active relationship with other educating agents
  41. Married love serves life by begetting and educating children, but also by adoption, or by reaching out in other ways beyond the family.