

~In the School of Mary~
PAPAL DOCUMENTS
Condensed by Deacon Bill Wagner
(On Love in the Family
by Pope Francis ~ March-19-2016)
APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION: *Amoris Laetitia*

CHAPTER ONE
IN THE LIGHT OF THE WORD
YOUR CHILDREN ARE
AS THE SHOOTS OF AN OLIVE TREE

18. The twelve-year old Jesus tells Mary and Joseph that he has a greater mission apart from his earthly family. Yet at the same time, in the concern he shows for children, whom the societies of the ancient Near East viewed as without rights and even as property, Jesus presents them as teachers because of their simple trust and spontaneity: “Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

A PATH OF SUFFERING AND BLOOD

19. A bitter truth found throughout sacred Scripture is the presence of pain, evil and violence that breaks up families. The word of God constantly testifies to that somber dimension already present at the beginning, when, through sin, the relationship of love between man and woman turns into domination.

20. This thread of suffering and bloodshed runs through numerous pages of the Bible, beginning with Cain’s murder of his brother, Abel. We read of the disputes between the sons and wives of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the violence in David’s family, the family problems in the story of Tobias and the bitter complaint of Job.

21. Jesus himself was born into a modest family that soon had to flee to a foreign land. He visits Peter’s mother-in-law who was ill. He shows sympathy upon the deaths in the homes of Jairus and Lazarus. He hears the wailing of the widow of Nain for her dead son. There are many more examples about Jesus throughout the NT.

22. We can see that the word of God is not a series of abstract ideas but rather a source of comfort and companionship for every family. The NT shows them the goal of their journey, when God “will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more.” Rev. 21:4

THE WORK OF YOUR HANDS

23. At the beginning of Psalm 128, the father appears as a laborer who sustains his family. It is clear that from the very first pages of the Bible work is an essential part of human dignity. The Lord God put man in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. Man is presented as a laborer who works the earth in addition to cultivating his own gifts and talents.

Deacon Bill Wagner

Please Note: *AMORIS LAETITIA* is available through local Catholic bookstores or on the web at EWTN or the Vatican.