



Friday, April 28 2017

The Most Rev. David Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.  
Conference of Catholic Bishops of Canada  
2500 Don Reid Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1H 2J2  
Canada

Your Excellency,

The two recent Assemblies of the Synod of Bishops, under the guidance of Pope Francis, initiated an important reflection within the Church on the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world.

The World Meeting of Families, to be held in Dublin from 22-26 August 2018, will represent another important step in this process, as the first such meeting to be held since the publication by Pope Francis of his post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*.

Pope Francis has chosen as the theme of the World Meeting: 'The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World' and he has expressed the hope that he will be present in person.

I therefore have pleasure in extending an invitation to representatives of the Church in your country to take part in this important international event for families and those who support them.

As in the past, the programme for the World Meeting of Families in Dublin will comprise of four main elements:

- A period of pre-catechesis on the theme, to be shared with Episcopal Conferences across the world.
- A *Theological Pastoral Congress*, scheduled for Wednesday 22 to Friday 24 August 2018.

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- The celebration of the *Feast of Families* scheduled for Saturday 25 August 2018.
- And the closing *Solemn Mass*, scheduled for Sunday 26 August 2018.

Further details of the programme, as well as important information on how families and others from your country can register to attend, are available from our website at [www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie). You can also contact the World Meeting of Families 2018 office directly at the email below.

In light of the unique value of bringing families together to support one another, I would ask you to extend this invitation to as many families, ecclesial and other organisations who work with them as possible, to register and attend the World Meeting of Families in Dublin in August 2018.

I can assure you and all those who attend of a warm welcome and a most worthwhile and memorable event.

Yours sincerely, in Christ,

+Diarmuid Martin  
Archbishop of Dublin  
President, World Meeting of Families 2018