



## Young Adults Forum – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2015

### Q1. FAMILY -

What is your understanding of the family and how important is it for society?

- Main unit- mother and father and children- outer branches of a family tree- grandparents, cousins, etc: first form of support, closest people in the world. Takes different forms- no one ideal.
- Most important thing for society: a solid base. Basic unit/foundation of society. Group of people working with and for each other. Future: drives our next generation. What you learn from your family you pass on to the next generation.
- Should be protected- promoted by Church.
- A group of people who God has tied together that cannot be separated no matter how hard it gets.
- Procreation- babies.
- Cannot be restricted to biological- adoptees.
- Love, security, guidance, support.
- Very important although not the be all or end all- charity, etc.
- Gives children a bearing for life.
- Family is your siblings and your parents, anyone who is related to you.
- Depends how you have been brought up- close friends, community.
- Important for community- group effort, build projects, etc.
- Family is a support system; you can turn to them in difficult times- family are always there.
- Family- pass on the faith, complex (nuclear, single parent, blended), greater role of grandparents, first experience of love and hate, can be yourself, broken families.
- The family has to be good role models.
- It is important to realize that not all families are like yours.



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### Q2. DIVORCED & SEPARATED MARRIAGES-

What is your understanding of the Church's teachings on divorce and subsequent remarriage?

- Not allowed to remarry if divorced.
- If remarried- not allowed receiving Communion, therefore considered to be committing adultery.
- People don't know/aren't aware of the consequences of remarriage.
- Annulments: hard to obtain- have to prove that the marriage wasn't entered into full consent. The Church may need to show sympathy.
- Those who are divorced (not remarried) need to know that the Church still welcomes them.
- Medieval approach.
- One shot and if wrong you're stuck.
- Annulment- make it more available, too slow, disadvantages good party.
- Teaching not clear- all levels.
- What about –non-practicing.
- More options it goes wrong- because it does.
- There is no divorce within the Church, only annulment- people who get divorced through the legal system.
- Divorced people may have a lot of guilt for going to Church, may feel judged, and may feel there is a lack of support.
- Remarriage isn't recognized within the Church unless there has been an annulment.
- Church doesn't really show that they have a duty of care towards divorced people.
- Divorcees who are Catholic feel left behind and forgotten about.
- Church doesn't really care for those affected by divorce- i.e. children.
- Lack of clarity in Church's position.
- Those who divorce should receive Communion?
- If you divorce and remarry it is seen as adultery- it's not recognised.
- Double standards.
- Get married without Mass?
- Annulment?
- Judgment from other parishioners.
- Are separated couples allowed Communion?



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### Q3. HOMOSEXUAL TENDENCIES-

What is your understanding of the Church's teachings and attitudes towards people with homosexual tendencies?

- “Love the sinner, hate the sin”.
- A lot more sympathetic than everyone thinks.
- Catholic Church more sympathetic than other churches.
- Homosexuality is not a sin if it is not acted upon.
- General idea that the Church is out of touch with these issues.
- Perception that the Church is homophobic- whether it is or not.
- Church is against same sex marriage.
- Nobody is not welcomed to the Church.
- Everyone is called to chastity, gay or not.
- The Church loves everyone except gay people- the Church loves everyone including gay people- too many opinions, that it is wrong.
- There are gay people who are alive in faith in the Church.
- However there is a vibe that gay people think the Church is against them.
- The Church is slow/behind societies understanding and acceptance.
- Church believes it is morally wrong.
- It is not life giving.
- Lack of knowledge, Church shouldn't be so narrow-minded.
- Less controversy with homosexuality.
- More discussion with those involved.
- Should be more outreach by youth workers etc.
- It's more the hierarchy that looks down upon homosexuality, not the people.
- Should be a review of the Church's perception towards homosexuality.
- Understand teachings?
- Freedom to be in a relationship.
- Same sex marriage foolish proposition.
- The pursuit of equality is blurring the Catholic vision of marriage as a sacrament between a man and a woman.
- Sense that Church is judging the moral compass of a person based on their sexual orientation.



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### How can the Church pastorally care more for the 3 areas?

- Church needs better education on all of its teachings: priests need to present teachings in Homilies and shouldn't be afraid to do so.

#### 1. Family

- Do more to promote the real beauty of the family.
- More supportive for families after marriage- be more proactive before bigger issues arise.
- Explain the beauty of all teachings.
- More care for breakups or problems.
- Make the liturgy more family friendly.
- More pastoral outreach like crèches/help for families.
- More opportunities for youth involvement in Church.
- Help the family to teach their children about their faith.
- Provide more support for those affected by bereavement e.g. support groups, mainly for younger people.
- Be more open and more inclusive to what family is now compared to perhaps 20/30 years ago.
- Hierarchy in the Church should be more understanding and listen to what priests/people who work pastorally with groups on the ground.

#### 2. Divorced

- Annulments should be more accessible when necessary (to an extent)
- Church should make more efforts to be more sympathetic and caring to divorced.
- Help people still feel part of the Church.
- Don't make it so tough.
- Make it more personal- quicker annulment.
- Campaign to raise awareness that divorcees are not excluded, that they are still important.
- Local priests could have more personal level of communication with divorcees, provide counselling services.



- Divorced people should receive the Eucharist- may show that they are pastorally responsible, should be community as a whole- Church should be more integrated.

### **3. Homosexuals**

- Show compassion and explain more clearly the teachings.
- Highlight that tendencies aren't the problem, it's the act; and explain why this is the case.
- Should empower single practicing Catholic homosexuals to stand forward as examples.
- Same sex marriage.
- Make them feel welcome.
- Accept them truly.
- Better awareness of homosexuality.
- Be more accepting of the person and not focusing on the sin.
- Be clear in your teaching.
- Who is to say that a homosexual person can't be a loving and caring parent- isn't this what we want for our children.