

Vatican City
October 27, 2016

Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family
Opening of the 2016-2017 Academic Year
Greeting to the Holy Father
Presented by Monsignor Pierangelo Sequeri
President

Most Holy Father,

Together with the Vice Presidents, the Faculty, the Staff and the Students of our Institute, who all share in our commitment to research, instruction and study at our Rome campus and around the world, I make my own the expression of gratitude addressed to you by our Grand Chancellor, the Most Reverend Vincenzo Paglia, for the gift you have given us of opening our Academic Year in person.

Thirty-five years have passed since the creation of the Institute, but the legacy of the teaching and spirituality of Saint John Paul II that has been entrusted to us continues to give it life. Our wish is to honor this legacy fully, now and in the future, by making as fruitful as possible the creativity and vision that was his and that has been our inspiration.

The loving intelligence that your Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* asks us to dedicate to the Christian understanding of the family in today's world will enhance our ability to give a correct theological interpretation, and a culturally more attractive presentation, of the basis and forms of evangelical closeness to the human condition. Our Faith holds within itself treasures of God's mercy that await our ever more generous consideration and communication. The power of the Church's love, which draws life from the seed of love planted in the community with the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, needs always to be better understood and activated.

Our special bond with the Ministry of Peter, which inspires our common intent that embraces the diversity of nations, imparts to us the happy task of giving witness to the true meaning of the "catholicity" of the Church. We assure you therefore of our commitment to making full use of the talents we have received so that we can be equal to the service we are to render and the confidence you have reposed in us.

Please accept, from all of us, our heartfelt thanks.