



April 12, 2018

To all Pastors of the Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie

Re: *World meeting of families 2018*

Dear brother priests,

Every three years, the *World Meeting of Families* brings together families from across the world to celebrate the value and importance of marriage and family, in society and in the Church, as well as to pray and reflect together.

This year, Pope Francis chose Dublin, Ireland, to host this important gathering which will be held from August 21 to 28, 2018. The theme of this international event will be "The Gospel of the Family: Joy for the World."

I am sending you two documents: one containing background information and the other describing the program for the event. You can find additional information on the following website: www.worldmeeting2018.

Please inform your parishioners of this important international meeting and invite them to pray for its success. Should a family in your parish be interested in travelling to Dublin to participate in this event, the Diocese is willing to pay \$1,000 per family to help cover the trip expenses. You need only communicate with Robert Larivière at the Diocesan Centre (705-674-2727, ext. 229).

May this be an opportunity for all of us to support the families of our Diocese on their faith journey and in their efforts to build a better world for the children of today and of the future.

Yours in Christ,

+Marcel Damphousse
Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie