

TOGETHER

a monthly bulletin insert from the archdiocese



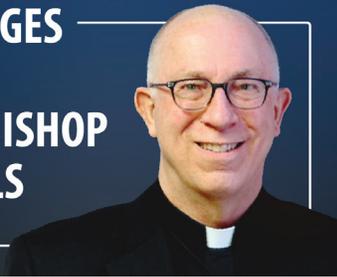
ARCHDIOCESE
of DUBUQUE

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MESSAGES FROM ARCHBISHOP JACKELS



26 February 2021, 10:15 AM

YEAR OF THE AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY

This is a year of years: it's the Year of St. Joseph, the Year of Laudato Si, and the Year of the Amoris Laetitia Family. Italians would say: Diego Maradona, that's a lot of celebration!

A few words about the Year of the Amoris Laetitia Family. It begins on 19 March 2021, the Feast of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, and the foster father of Jesus, our Savior.

Remember? Amoris Laetitia was written by Pope Francis (viva il Papa!) to promote thought and discussion on marriage and family; this anniversary observance has the same purpose.

If you haven't read it, do yourself a favor. Chapters Three and Four are worth a read, and accessible, even if we're not married or theologians.

Marriage. We understand it as an institution that began with creation, whereby man and woman freely give themselves to each other until death in a faithful and fruitful relationship.

All of us have a vested interest in safeguarding marriage and family,

because when these are healthy and strong, so are our Nation and its citizens.

For example, spouses and their children enjoy greater physical and economic wellbeing, as well as fewer instances of domestic violence and anti-social behavior.

Also, studies show people more likely experience joy and a filled-full life when they live for another, serve and sacrifice for another – what you learn in and from marriage and family.

You get the point: marriage and family have a place and purpose independent of religious teaching. Jesus only restored the original plan of creation, and sanctified married love.

We need more vocations to priesthood. But there's also a need for vocations to marriage and family life; if this were to increase, there'd be an increase in the number of priests too.

Because the best way to learn the service and sacrifice involved in being a follower of Jesus is the witness of spouse to spouse, parents to children, children as future... priests?

Please, God, let the Year of the Amoris Laetitia Family be more than a passing observance, and bear the fruit of more people entering Holy Matrimony, a community of life and love.

Michael Jackels
Archbishop of Dubuque

4 March 2021, 3:45 PM

JOHNSON & JOHNSON COVID-19 VACCINE

Originally, it didn't seem necessary to make a statement about the Johnson and Johnson (Janssen) vaccine; any message would be essentially the same as what was said in December 2020 regarding the other vaccines.

However, some Catholics are a little confused about whether they may receive the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. So, some clarification is called for:

If Catholics are given a choice about which COVID vaccine to receive, they should choose the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines over the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Why?

Because Johnson and Johnson used cell lines from the fetal tissue of an aborted baby in the production of its vaccine, whereas Pfizer and Moderna used them only for lab testing.

It's a subtle distinction. All three companies used those ethically compromised cell lines; it's just that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, because they made only limited use, are further removed from the evil of abortion than is the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

However, if Catholics are not given a choice about which vaccine to receive, it is morally acceptable for them to use the Johnson and Johnson vaccine against the serious health risk of the coronavirus.

In this regard, it appears that, at present, and for the foreseeable future, no one is

being offered a choice of vaccines.

Besides, as stated above, right now there isn't a COVID vaccine available that didn't use those abortion-derived cell lines in design, development, production, and/or lab testing.

So, if Catholics have the opportunity to get vaccinated, and aren't given a choice of vaccines, they should gratefully receive whatever is available; the sooner, the better.

The common good of protecting the public health against a contagious and potentially deadly virus takes precedence over any reservations Catholics might have about being treated with any of the available vaccines.

Michael Jackels
Archbishop of Dubuque

Lenten livestream with Archbishop Jackels | Tuesday, March 23 6:30 pm

Join Archbishop Jackels and others for a Lenten livestream event with emphasis given to the lives of our women and men religious. These communities help us to focus on the kind of poverty that Jesus lived; one which might be called a shared life, where people give of themselves in service of others, especially the poor.



GO TO JOSEPH: A REMINDER

The February issue of *Together* featured a message from Archbishop Jackels in which he asked "Catholics in the Archdiocese of Dubuque to recite a prayer to St. Joseph (see litany to the right) on the 19th of the month, from March through November - a novena of 19s - for charity, unity, and humility in our Church, and in our Country."

His message can be read in its entirety at www.dbqarch.org/go-to-joseph

His "Go to Joseph" message ended with the plea, "For the love of God, neighbor, country, and of all that is good and holy, please join in [our prayer]."

The archdiocesan communications office will soon post and disseminate a video on the Go to Joseph web page of Archbishop Jackels praying the litany so that others may pray with him during the next nine months.

Litany to St. Joseph to be prayed on the 19th of each month, March - November

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

God our Father in heaven,
have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.
Noble son of the House of David, pray for us.
Light of the Patriarchs, pray for us.
Husband of the Mother of God,
pray for us.

Guardian of the Virgin, pray for us.
Foster father of the Son of God, pray for us.
Faithful guardian of Christ, pray for us.
Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.
Joseph, chaste and just, pray for us.
Joseph, prudent and brave, pray for us.
Joseph, obedient and loyal, pray for us.
Pattern of patience, pray for us.

Lover of poverty, pray for us.
Model of workers, pray for us.
Example to parents, pray for us.
Guardian of virgins, pray for us.
Pillar of family life, pray for us.
Comfort of the troubled, pray for us.
Hope of the sick, pray for us.
Patron of the dying, pray for us.
Terror of evil spirits, pray for us.
Protector of the Church, pray for us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world, have mercy on us.

God made him master of his household,
and put him in charge of all that he owned.

Let us pray. O God, who in your
inexpressible providence were pleased
to choose Saint Joseph as spouse of the
most holy Mother of your Son, grant,
we pray, that we, who revere him as our
protector on earth, may be worthy of his
heavenly intercession.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.