



DICASTERIUM
PRO LAICIS, FAMILIA ET VITA

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**Message from His Eminence Kevin Cardinal Farrell
to Families in Africa on the occasion of the SECAM Golden Jubilee**

Dear families, who constitute the great family of God, you are the pilgrim Church in the beloved villages of Africa and Madagascar. I would like to wish you a sincere and heartfelt congratulation on celebrating the *Golden Jubilee of SECAM*.

The message for this fiftieth anniversary is a call to *proclaim Jesus Christ as our Savior*. Paul the Apostle tells us: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news!!" (Rom 10:15). Therefore, let us rejoice by way of Archangel Gabriel's greeting to Holy Mary, "*Rejoice full of grace!*" It is the joy of having received the proclamation of faith in Jesus Christ, our Savior; the joy of living the faith in the family, which reveals and gives us the necessary love to share it every day and to make together a path to holiness. But it is also the joy of being "the feet that preach", since the vocation of the family is to transmit the faith, principally through the witness of the love that is given every day, as a living encounter with Jesus Christ that transforms our life and sanctifies it.

May the occasion of this Jubilee be an opportunity to welcome and begin to deepen the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the next X World Meeting of Families, to be held in Rome: "***Family love: vocation and a path to holiness***". This message invites us to understand how conjugal and family love nourishes communion and avoids individualism. Living out love of the family, even in the midst of the weaknesses and difficulties of each day, with fidelity and perseverance, is the way of holiness, and it is always possible when we make space for Christ as a faithful presence in our life.

Dear Christian couples and families, the vocation you have received is to be a living sign of the love with which Jesus Christ a husband loves his wife, the Church. Make this love visible, so that it may truly be the expression of the most attractive face of the Church (cf. *Gaudete et exsultate* 9).

I hope that the Jubilee Year and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of SECAM will lead you, as families, to a renewed ecclesial experience with the power of the Lord Spirit. I encourage you to proclaim the Good News with selfless dedication and renewed enthusiasm.

Congratulations and may God bless and strengthen you in your journey to holiness.

Kevin Card. Farrell
Prefect