

ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS Office of Communications and Planning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 8, 2016 Media Contact: Gabe Jones 314.792.7557 gabejones@archstl.org

## Statement on Pope Francis' Exhortation 'Amoris Laetitia'

Archdiocese of St. Louis to Hold Media Conference Call

**ST. LOUIS** – The Archdiocese of St. Louis welcomes the post-synodal apostolic exhortation on the family, *Amoris Laetitia*, "The Joy of Love: On Love in the Family," released today by the Holy Father. The exhortation is, among other things, a universal call to promote, encourage, and support the family as the most fundamental unit of society. As Pope Francis <u>said in September 2015</u>: "The family is the answer because it is the cell of society that balances the personal and communal dimensions…"

The Holy Father has also challenged bishops, pastors, and the faithful around the world to seek ways in which families of various circumstances may be better "integrated" into the life of the Church.

We look forward to thoroughly studying the document and examining how Pope Francis is calling us to "return marriage and the family to the place of honor" as <u>he has previously stated</u>.

At 12:00 p.m. CDT, Friday, April 8, auxiliary bishop Edward Rice and other representatives of the archdiocese will hold a conference call to discuss *Amoris Laetitia*. Please RSVP to obtain call-in information.

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