Amoris Laetitia (On Love In The Family) is not only a beautiful and welcome reflection on marriage and the family; it is also a particular call to pastors, parishes, and Catholic institutions to work in concrete ways to support families and help them grow. In this way Amoris Laetitia underscores the importance of the ministry to families that unfolds daily throughout the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

With this exhortation, the Holy Father has demonstrated a deep understanding of the challenges faced by all families. As a bishop who was privileged to participate in the 2015 Synod on the Family, I can say that my first glimpse into the exhortation confirms my observation that he listened very carefully to the concerns raised by bishops and other Synod participants from all over the world.

Ministry to families is one of the key pastoral concerns that we have identified here in the Edmonton Archdiocese, and so this teaching by Pope Francis will be invaluable to us. We know that many of our social ills stem from unhealthy, often violent, family situations. Here in Alberta, we have one of the highest rates of family violence in Canada. The importance of ministry to the family simply cannot be overstated.

As a Christian community, we are called to share the Gospel message of the beauty and dignity of marriage, the inexpressibly wondrous gift of children, and the home as the place of love, nurture, safety, and identity. Pope Francis illustrates this call in great detail in his exhortation.

Amoris Laetitia does not change Church teaching or discipline regarding marriage. It does underline the need for pastors to listen attentively and deal sensitively with single people, couples, and families who experience difficult situations.

At more than 260 pages, Amoris Laetitia is lengthy, and I plan to follow the Holy Father’s advice to give it the proper time and attention before giving any more detailed response.

In the meantime, I encourage all Catholics to join me in studying and reflecting on his words. Pope Francis has given us some important and timely teaching on issues that affect us all.

Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton
8 April 2016

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday: World Day of Prayer for Vocations

This Sunday celebrates Jesus as “the Good Shepherd.” When announcing this Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis focused on Jesus’ “lost sheep” parable in Luke. “[Who] among you,” Jesus asks, “having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it?” (Luke 15:4). A reasonable answer? “No responsible shepherd who wants to keep the ninety-nine would leave the lost one.” Yet Jesus considers one lost person supremely important and suggests blaming the shepherd. The sheep didn’t “go astray,” the shepherd “lost” it.

Thus, “when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy” (15:5). That tender image of Jesus adorns the simple cross Pope Francis has always worn, the Good Shepherd gently carrying the lost sheep home on his shoulders. During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, may we, who once were lost ourselves but now are found, join Jesus in seeking, finding, and gently carrying home at least one precious lamb.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
History of St. Joe’s
At the invitation of Henry Marshall Tory, first president of the University of Alberta in 1926 the Catholic community under Archbishop John Joseph O’Leary founded an affiliated College on the University campus. Guided by the Christian Brothers, St. Joseph’s College house up to one hundred men in a handsome brick building that included a chapel, dining room, classrooms and library. Through its affiliation agreement, the College offered university credit courses in Christian apologetics, ethics and philosophy. Beginning with the College’s first rector, Brother Rogatian, in those early years Christian Brothers on staff taught in several faculties of the University. In 1963, Archbishop John Hugh MacDonald invited the Basilian Fathers to assume administrative responsibility for St. Joseph’s College. During the next decades, its academic offerings were considerably expanded. Further, chaplaincy services assumed greater prominence on campus. Only recently, its residence gained an annex, St. Joseph’s College Women’s Residence. Today, with a core faculty of Basilians, lay women and men and excellent library, St. Joseph’s College offers undergraduate courses for credit in all U of A degree programs. Of particular importance are offerings in religious education for future teachers in the province’s Catholic school system. Other areas of instruction include philosophy, science and religion, history, ethics and theology.

L’Arche Edmonton
L’Arche Edmonton will host an Art Exhibition on April 22 and April 23 entitled Art from the Heart, at Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, 9225 118 Ave. This exhibition will celebrate the culmination of an art project involving our core members (adults with developmental disabilities) who have spent the past several months creating pieces of art under the guidance of art therapist Joyce Aita. The exhibition will be held Friday, April 22 from 3 – 9 p.m. and Saturday from 10- 4 p.m. A special evening reception will be held on the Friday from 7 – 9 p.m. There is no charge but donations towards L’Arche Edmonton’s Day Program are welcome. The L’Arche Association of Edmonton is a faith-based, non-profit charitable organization that provides family-style homes and a Day Program to adults with developmental disabilities in our community. For more information, contact Maria Mastrith at L’Arche, 780-465-0618, ext. 206.

Development and Peace 50th Anniversary Celebration
Wednesday, April 27, 2016
St. Joseph’s Basilica, 10044 - 113 Street, Edmonton
7 p.m. Mass, 8 p.m. Reception
Contact dpwest@devp.org or call 1-844-480-3387.

Biblical Hebrew Course
Would you like to take an introductory course on biblical/classical Hebrew at the University of Alberta? The course can only be offered, however, if there are enough students. If you are interested in such a course, contact Peter Sabo in the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies at psabo@ualberta.ca.

An Invitation to Women Religious
The Knights of Columbus are pleased to invite all women religious to celebrate the annual Sisters in May Day on Wednesday, May 11, at St. Alphonsus Church in Edmonton. It will begin with a “Rosary for Life” at 6:40 p.m., followed by Mass and hospitality. Please RSVP to Fred Prather at fprather@telusplanet.net or 780-479-3426 by Monday, May 9 with your probable number of sisters expected to attend.

Hi, My name is....
Fr Terry Kersh
President
Brian Maraj
Dean
Theresa Robinson
Campus Minister

Music Ministry
Can you sing or play an instrument? Music ministry is always looking for new recruits.
9:30 and 11 am Masses
Tegan Hryciw
StJoesc.music@gmail.com
7 pm Mass
Theresa Robinson
Theresa.Robinson@ualberta.ca
4:30 pm (Sat.) Mass
Cerina Lee
jllee7@ualberta.ca

Sunday Coffee or Brunch
There is often free coffee in the Boardroom following the 9:30 am mass. Brunch is served in the cafeteria follow the 11 am mass for a cost of $9 person. Why not join us?

St. Joseph
O God, you love your people and bless the ordinary lives we quietly live. As you blessed Saint Joseph, bless what I do, however hidden and simple it may be, and let all I do be done with love. Amen.

Ministry of Pastoral Care: Certificate Program for Volunteers
This program offers participants a better understanding of pastoral care given to hospital patients, continuing care and assisted living residents, community shut-ins and congregation members. The comprehensive 10 hour program will outline the foundations of Pastoral Care and Sacramental Ministry, cover Types of Ministry Visits, Dealing with Grief, and Caring for the Volunteer, finishing with a certificate ceremony.

The next course will be offered over two days on Friday, April 22, 2016, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., and Saturday, April 23, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Newman Theological College, 10012 - 84 Street, Edmonton. There is a limit of 20 participants for the program. Registration cost is $75.00. A pastor’s reference letter and current Police Information Check (PIC) including the Vulnerable Sector Check is required.

Book Club
Time / Date: Monday April 18 at 7 pm.
Location: Classroom 1-01
Book: “Physics of the Future: How Science Will Shape Human Destiny and Our Daily Lives by the Year 2100” by Michio Kaku

Every Life Matters: Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia
Our partners Salt+Light TV will also be broadcasting Every Life Matters sessions on their TV network. You can subscribe to Salt+Light TV’s excellent Catholic content through your cable provider (and why wouldn’t you?) or watch online at www.saltandlighttv.org. Here’s the schedule:
What's it all About? Saturday, April 23 at 7pm MT
What's Wrong with Euthanasia? Wed, April 27 at 7pm MT
It's My body, my Choice Saturday, April 30 at 7pm MT
I Don’t want to Suffer! Wednesday, May 4 at 7pm MT
What Must We Do? Saturday, May 7 at 7pm MT
Salt+Light TV will also be producing a DVD set of these programs; we will keep you posted as to when they will be available.