



Junior Cycle

Moment Four: Families of Joy

Keywords:

CATECHESIS
INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION
CONGRESS
GESTURES
DOMESTIC CHURCH
POPE
PONTIFF
CASSOCK

What is the World Meeting of Families?

W

Watch: worldmeeting2018.ie/en/About/About-WMOF2018 (3 minutes 9 seconds)

Pope John Paul II established the first World Meeting of Families in 1994. This took place in Rome and was a celebration of the importance of marriage and family life in our society and in the life of the Church. It takes place every three years as an international celebration of the joy of marriage and family life.

A

Activity

Visit the website for the World Meeting of Families 2018 (worldmeeting2018.ie). Create a timeline representing the history of the World Meeting of Families. This should include the dates and places the congress has occurred and identify the pope at the time of each meeting.

What is going to happen in Ireland for the World Meeting of Families?

21 August 2017	Launch of a one-year programme in Knock in preparation for the congress
21 August 2018	National opening of the World Meeting of Families 2018 in Dublin
22–25 August 2018	Three-day congress in Dublin, including prayer, celebration and catechesis
26 August 2018	Festival of Families
27 August 2018	Solemn Eucharistic Celebration (hopefully Pope Francis will be in attendance)

In his homily at the last World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, Pope Francis said:

‘Whoever gives you a cup of water in my name will not go unrewarded,’ says Jesus (cf. Mk 9:41). These little gestures are those we learn at home, in the family; they get lost amid all the other things we do, yet they do make each day different. They are the quiet things done by mothers and grandmothers, by fathers and grandfathers, by children, by brothers and sisters. They are little signs of tenderness, affection and compassion. Like the warm supper we look forward to at night, the early lunch awaiting someone who gets up early to go to work. Homely gestures. Like a blessing before we go to bed, or a hug after we return from a hard day’s work. Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home. (w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2015/documents/papa-francesco_20150927_usa-omelia-famiglie.html)

**R****Reflective Exercise**

Take a moment to think about yesterday evening, or any time recently that you have spent time with your family.

- Identify the 'little signs of tenderness, affection and compassion' you were shown
- Identify the 'little signs of tenderness, affection and compassion' you showed others
- In as much as you are comfortable, share your story with the person sitting next to you

In the same homily, Pope Francis continues by saying:

'Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to grow in faith.'

D**Discussion**

Discuss this statement with your class. Explore the meaning of the statement. Having discussed this statement, write an explanation in your copy.

E**Extension Exercise**

Do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.

Or

Pope Francis continues his homily by saying: 'Jesus tells us not to hold back these little miracles. Instead, he wants us to encourage them, to spread them. He asks us to go through life, our everyday life, encouraging all these little signs of love as signs of his own living and active presence in our world.'

Write a paragraph outlining ways in which you can encourage 'these little signs of love'. If we all did this, would the world be a better place?

Who is Pope Francis?**W**

Watch: [biography.com/people/pope-francis-21152349](https://www.biography.com/people/pope-francis-21152349) (3 minutes 6 seconds)



D Discussion

In the video, Pope Francis is described as someone who wears simple clothes, takes public transport and drives a simple car (2008 Ford Focus).

- What can a person like this bring to the role of pope?

A Activity

Create a visual comparison of Pope Francis and Pope Benedict XVI. You may draw or cut out pictures representing the following information:

- Transportation
- Cassocks
- Coats
- Shoes
- Dwelling places

E Extension Exercise

In the video, Pope Francis is described as the 'answer to the prayers of many'. Write a paragraph outlining your thoughts on this statement.

D Discussion

Read the following facts about Pope Francis, then discuss the kind of person you think Pope Francis is.

- Are you surprised by any of the facts presented here?
- What did you expect the life of a person who becomes pope to be like?

FACTS ABOUT POPE FRANCIS

Name: Jorge Mario Bergoglio	Born: 17/12/1936
Place of birth: Buenos Aires, Argentina	Before he became a priest, he was a bouncer in a bar
Before he became a priest, he had a serious girlfriend and loved to dance the tango	Pope Francis enjoys cooking and regularly cooks for himself
He is the first pope to choose the name Francis	He has a master's degree in chemistry & philosophy
Pope Francis has had only one lung since he was a teenager	It is thought that in 2005, when Pope Benedict was elected pope, Jorge Mario Bergoglio was the runner-up
He tweets	He loves football
He is fluent in Spanish, Latin and Italian but also speaks very good English, German, Ukrainian, French and Portuguese	Reads the Bible – but also loves <i>Lord of the Rings</i>
Does not live in the grand apartments in the Vatican like previous popes. Instead he lives in a small house in the Vatican	2013 – elected Pope 2013 – named Person of the Year by <i>People Magazine</i>
Number one on the Forbes the 'World's 50 Greatest Leaders' in 2014	Was given a gift of a Harley-Davidson – which he sold and gave the money to the homeless!

(source: www.thefactsite.com/2015/10/pope-francis-facts.html)



A

Activity

Write a biography for Pope Francis. Make it interesting by researching some further information about our pontiff.

Or

Imagine you have the opportunity to interview Pope Francis. You can ask him seven questions. Compile a list of fifteen questions you would like to ask him. In pairs, reduce this list to seven. In order to do this, you will have to discuss and debate the reasons for choosing your final seven.

Or

Create a timeline representing the life of Pope Francis. This will require further research into his life in order to plot the timeline accurately. Make sure you include information that shows the life of Pope Francis.

W

Watch: youtu.be/8Q_u0r1mqGc (2 minutes) Pope Francis seems to be fun! This video shows his seventy-eighth birthday celebration in Rome.

D

Discussion

- What kind of person do you think Pope Francis is, in the eyes of the people being interviewed?
- Do you think this is a good person to have as the head of our Church?

A

Activity


Calculate the age Pope Francis will be on his next birthday.



Pope Francis' Five Finger Prayer

In keeping with Pope Francis' simple lifestyle and simple fashion choices, he has offered us a very simple way to pray. He has given us the Five Finger Prayer.

Pope Francis' Five Finger Prayer



1. The thumb is closest to you, so start praying for those who are closest to you. They are the persons easiest to remember. To pray for our dear ones is a 'sweet obligation'.
2. Next is your index finger. Pray for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you. They need support and wisdom to show direction to others. Always keep them to your prayers.
3. The following finger is the tallest. It reminds us of our leaders, the governors and those who have authority. They need God's guidance.
4. The fourth finger is the ring finger. It may surprise you that this is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for the weakest. The sick or those plagued by problems.
5. And finally we have our smallest finger. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. Once you have prayed for the other groups, you will have a perspective on your own needs. You will be able to pray for your own needs in a better way.

(Source: www.patheos.com)

R

Reflective Exercise

Using this model, compose a five finger prayer in your copy. Once you have composed your prayer, take a few minutes to reflect on the words and take the opportunity to enter into prayer.

E

Extension Exercise

Follow Pope Francis on Twitter. Read his quote for the day and have a discussion with a family member about it.