



44/2015

Letter to the Church In Gozo

H.L. Mgr Mario Grech

Bishop of Gozo

Prayers for the Synod of the Family

Beloved in Christ,

I am writing to you this short letter before I leave for Rome for the Synod. During the coming three weeks I, together with other Bishops from all over the world, united with Pope Francis, will discern the message of the Holy Spirit to the Church regarding the vocation and mission of the family today. Expectations are high. I am convinced that not only the families are keen to taste “new wine”, but also that God wishes us to be more open to His inspirations. I feel that Jesus wishes his Church to be like the teacher of the Law who becomes a disciple of the Kingdom and who “from his baggage brings forth both the old and the new” (Mt. 13:12). My wish is that, just as at the conclusion of the Council of Jerusalem in 49 A.D., the resolutions of the Synod would not impose “further burdens than are necessary” and provide the joy of consolation to the people of God (*vide* Acts 15:28.31).

Once more I entreat you to accompany us with your fervent prayers to God through the intercession of St Joseph, the father of the family of Nazareth, under whose protection I wish to entrust my contribution in this Synod. Therefore, apart from the daily prayers which I wish be said in the churches and the Religious’ communities, I appeal to all our families, none excluded, to pray the Blessed Rosary. It is proper that children be included. I appeal to all the schools, particularly Church schools, and the Catechism Centres to help the children to achieve this aim. Above all, I make a special appeal to all the sick, and to all those who are suffering, so that they offer their tribulations for the successful outcome of the Synod. I appreciate the commitment of the priests who work or visit the sick in the hospitals, and who give Holy Communion to the housebound, and who emphasize the spiritual help which the suffering can provide.

Please pray for me.

Sent from the Bishop’s Curia, Victoria, on the start of the month dedicated to the Blessed Rosary, today, Thursday 1st October 2015, the Memory of St Therese of the Child Jesus.

✠ Mario Grech
Bishop of Gozo