



**Gabinete do  
Arcebispo Primaz**

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**DISCURSO**

Ref. DSC\_02/2018

Discurso na Conferência de Imprensa  
sobre a Amoris Laetitia

Braga, Serviços Centrais, 17.Jan.2018, 16h

***Archdiocesan Office for Welcoming and Support to the Family***

1. The Pastoral Program of Braga's Archdiocese aims, among other challenges, to "awaken hope in families, accepting with responsibility and creativity the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* (*Seeds of Hope*, 26), because the "good of the family is decisive for the future of the world and the Church" (*AL* 31).
2. This is, therefore, an opportunity to reorganize Family Pastoral Care by giving a new impetus to some objectives that are already being worked out in Christian communities. We publish, for this effect, the *Guidance Document of the Family Pastoral Care*.
3. The great news of this document is the "Archdiocesan Office for Welcoming and Support to the Family". This service intends to provide an integral and multidisciplinary accompaniment of the problems in the light of Christian anthropology and the truth about marriage and the family. It will be created a "Listening Centre" to help families cope with difficulties they may experience throughout their lives. This Listening Centre results from a "Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary strategy involving specialized professionals and various archdiocesan institutions already operating with families" (*Guidance Document for Pastoral Care of the Family*, 28).

This Office is organized under two stages:

**a) Welcoming.** In personalized interviews, a first approach and evaluation of the reality it's made, directing families to the most appropriate monitoring areas;

**b) Multidisciplinary accompaniment:** (family / couple therapy, legal and pastoral counseling, fostering and life's promotion, family mediation and spiritual assistance) with the purpose of informing and guiding irregular family situations (remarried divorced couples, separated people and one parent families) in order to start a process a declaration of nullity or reintegration into ecclesial life (to accompany, discern and integrate).



#### **4. Structure of the Archdiocesan Service of Welcoming and Support to the Family**

##### **a) Integrated in the Department of Family Pastoral Care**

##### **b) Stable team**

- A jurist in Canon and Civil Law (she will attend at the Central Services on Mondays and Thursdays, from 09:30am to 12:00pm and from 02:00pm to 04:00pm);
- A psychologist, professor at the Catholic University and with connection to FACES (Psychology of the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences Reception Centre);
- A psychiatrist;
- A General and Family Medicine doctor;
- Three Jesuit priests for personalized accompaniment for discernment.

##### **c) Institutions to which some cases may be oriented, already counting on the collaboration of Social Workers and Psychologists**

- Centro de Escuta e Acompanhamento Espiritual (Listening and Spiritual Accompaniment Centre);
- Cooperadoras das Famílias (Family Cooperators);
- Associação S. José (mães solteiras) (S. José Association (single mothers));
- Centro de Emergência Social (Social Emergency Centre);
- Caritas;
- Associação Famílias (Families Association);
- Oficinas de S. José (S. José Offices);
- Colégio de S. Caetano (S. Caetano's School);
- Instituto Monsenhor Airosa (Monsenhor Airosa Institute).

##### **d) This Office will be located in Braga, in the Central Services of the Archdiocese. In the future, it may reach other deaneries and find new lines of action, as well as needed.**