

The family

AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE LEARN TO COMMUNICATE



The family is not a subject of debate or a terrain for ideological skirmishes. Rather, it is *an environment in which we learn to communicate* in an experience of closeness, a setting where communication takes place, a *“communicating community”*.

The family is a community which provides help, which celebrates life and is fruitful. Once we realize this, we will once more be able to see how the family continues to be a rich human resource, as opposed to a problem or an institution in crisis.

At times the *media* can tend to present the family as a kind of abstract model which has to be accepted or rejected, defended or attacked, rather than as a living reality. Or else a grounds for ideological clashes rather than as a setting where we can all learn what it means to communicate in a love received and returned. Relating our experiences means realizing that our lives are bound together as a single reality, that our voices are many, and that each is unique.

Pope Francis