**International Conference on *Amoris laetitia***

An international conference on *Amoris laetitia* five years after the publication of the post-synodal apostolic exhortation was held in Rome on 11-14 May 2022.

The Pontifical Gregoriana University and the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for the Sciences of Marriage and Family took the initiative, in collaboration with the Vatican's dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

Around 150 people from different continents took part in the conference. The very intense programme was divided into plenary and parallel sessions, offering the opportunity for discussion on fundamental themes of conjugal and family life. The focus was clearly marked by an inductive, existential approach, making this emerge as the specific paradigm of Pope Francis' document. Precisely because of this, *Amoris laetitia* constitutes not only a change of step in the moral and pastoral assessment of the fragility of the couple and the family, but a veritable new look that enables us to understand doctrinal aspects that are more respectful of persons and their choices of conscience to be accompanied and formed.

On Friday 13 May, Pope Francis received the conference participants in a special audience, commending them with the courage to move forward in an ever more constructive and encouraging reception of *Amoris laetitia*. This - the pope said - is even more necessary as we see in the Church resistance to *Amoris laetitia* and the temptation to go backwards, proposing rigidity of doctrine and severity of pastoral attitude.

Among the participants, many were members of our CTEWC network and for this reason too, they were able to enjoy financial support through the application of the 'Enrico Dolazza Travel Fellowship'.

The reflections discussed at the Rome conference will become exposed in a publication that will certainly help the deepening of the themes proposed by *Amoris laetitia*.

(Antonio Autiero)