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**POPE BENEDICT XV1 AFFIRMS MYSTERY OF CHILDBIRTH
Stresses Child's Need for Parental Love**

Benedict XV1 is highlighting the mystery of childbirth, in which parents are offered a chance to experience the action of their Creator.

He reflected on the "profound mystery" that surrounded the birth of Jesus.

"The birth of any child brings with it something of this mystery," the Pontiff said.

He affirmed that "human beings experience procreation not merely as reproductive act; they perceive its richness; they are intuitively aware that every human creature who enters into the world is a 'sign' par excellence of the Creator and Father in heaven."

The Holy Father underlined the need "for each child coming into the world to be welcomed into the warmth of a family."

He continued: "Exterior comforts are not important. Jesus was born in a stable and his first cradle was a manger, but the love of Mary and Joseph made him feel the tenderness and beauty of being loved."

"This is what children need: the love of a father and mother," Benedict XV1 stated.

He added, "This is what gives them a sense of security and, as they grow, enables them to discover the meaning of life."

The Pontiff acknowledged that the Holy Family went through many trials such as "the massacre of the innocents, which forced Joseph and Mary to flee to Egypt."

"But, trusting in Divine Providence, they found their stability and ensured Jesus had a serene infancy and a solid education," he added.

The Holy Father entrusted "all families to Mary and Joseph, that they may not be discouraged in the face of trials and difficulties but always cultivate love and dedicate themselves faithfully to the service of life and education."

**MESSAGE FOR PRIESTS AND FAITHFUL
From bishops on MASS CARDS**

Various misunderstandings about the tradition of Mass Offerings and clear dangers of exploitation of the Mass can easily emerge. For this reason, the Irish Bishops wish to make clear the Church's position on Mass Offerings. The following is a brief summary of the Church's teaching and regulation regarding Mass Offerings.

1. The Eucharist, the 'source and summit of the Christian life,' is at the heart of our belief, for it preserves the great mystery of our redemption in Jesus Christ. Therefore anything that might weaken or undermine our respect for the Eucharist must be avoided.
2. The practice of giving an offering dates back to the early Church when the faithful brought bread and wine for the Mass and other gifts for the support of the priest and for the poor. Nowadays a Mass offering is a way for the donor to join him/herself to the sacrifice of the Mass; it unites the donor closely with the life and apostolic activity of the Church, the Body of Christ, as the offering becomes a formal of material support for the Church's ministers and pastoral life. The Mass must never be an occasion for 'buying and selling' or 'making profit', nor should there be even the slightest appearance of making a profit from Mass offerings.
3. Normally a separate Mass is celebrated for each individual offering, however small. The donor specified the individual intention and it is up to the

the individual intention and it is up to the donor to decide what amount to give. Because donors may sometimes ask how much is appropriate to give, a current recommended diocesan offering is specified: (this amount is agreed by the Bishops at provincial level). A priest may accept less than the recommended offering—and many priests on occasion do.

3. The priest who received the offering has an obligation to apply Mass for the specific intention of the person who has made the offering. He is to celebrate a Mass within a reasonable time. Irrespective of how many Masses he celebrates in a day, a priest may only keep an offering for one Mass per day.
5. The Church does not encourage 'collective' or 'multi-intentional' Masses but sees these as an exception. In these exceptional cases, the following must apply:
 - (a) It must be made explicitly clear to the donor beforehand that the offering is being combined into a single Mass offering and the donor must give free consent to this.
 - (b) The place, date and time for this Mass should be indicated publicly and such Masses may not be celebrated any more than two days weekly in any Church.
 - (c) The priest who celebrates Mass for a collection intention must not keep any more than the specified diocesan offering, and must transfer any additional amount, in accordance with canon law, for the charitable purposes prescribed by the Bishop/Provincial.
6. Having signed or stamped Mass Cards for sale in shops and other commercial outlets is unacceptable and undermines the respect and understanding we are obliged, in faith, to have for the Mass.
7. The commercial printing and sale of Mass cards offends against the faith. Giving such cards, especially at times of bereavement, may be considered, though unintentionally, an insult to the memory of the deceased.
8. Such abuse of the Mass is not new and over the centuries the Church has set out very clearly the norms and regulations that govern the pious and laudable practice of having Mass offered as a sign of prayerful solidarity with others, especially at time of celebration or bereavement or illness.

Eternal Rest Grant unto them, O Lord
Martin Curtis, Nobber, Paddy Byrne, Cortubber.

Baptisms: All Baptisms are booked and registered at the Baptismal preparation meeting. Next Baptismal preparation meeting takes place in the Parish Centre on **Thursday, 4th February at 8 p.m.** Please note that Baptism in February will be on **6th and 27th.** **Please note change of date in month.**

Adoration will resume on Tuesday next, 11th January, 2011.

LITURGICAL NOTES

8th/9th January.

Vigil 6 p.m.: Paul Carolan.

Vigil Muff 7.30 p.m.: Richard & Rose Murray.

Corlea 9 a.m.: Susan & Patrick Owens, Corglass.

10.30: Norah Fleming, Drumgill.

12.00: The People of the Parish.

15th/16th January.

Vigil 6 p.m.: Peter Corrigan, Lisnagrew.

Vigil Muff 7.30 p.m.: Breda Smith, Corrygarry.

Corlea 9 a.m.: Charles Muldoon, Leiter.

10.30: Terry Clarke, Newcastle.

12.00: Julie Ann Heery, Bailieboro Road.

Kingscourt Parish—Rome & Assisi Pilgrimage in association with MAP Travel

Accompanied by Very. Rev. Gerry MacCormack Friday 7th—Friday, 14th October, 2011.

*This tour begins with a direct flight from **Dublin** to **Rome**. Enjoy **4 nights** in the Eternal City during which time you will see many of the main places of religious and historical interest, including **The Vatican & Sistine Chapel, the Major Basilicas, the Holy Stairs, Colosseum, Forum, Capitol Hill, The Pantheon and the Trevi Fountain**. Then travel to the medieval town of **Assisi** for **3 nights**. Assisi lies in the heart of Umbria, half way up the slopes of Mount Subasio. You will have an opportunity to explore **Assisi** and enjoy day excursions to **Florence** and **Siena** from here.*

Accommodation:

Irish College, Rome —www.irishcollege.org

Villa Irlanda (former convent/cottages in the grounds of the Irish College) is where you will be staying. Recently renovated, all rooms are en suite. It has its own kitchenette where you can prepare snacks too!

Roseo Hotel, Assisi—www.roseohotel.com

This 4* hotel is located on the outskirts of Assisi. It has its own extensive grounds, is modern with 156 tastefully appointed rooms with TV, mini bar and telephone. It has its own restaurant, bar and spa.

Proposed flights:

Friday, 7th Oct.: Dublin/Rome 15.45 hrs. 19.45 hrs.

Friday, 14th Oct.: Rome/Dublin 20.35 hrs. 22.50 hrs.

Price includes:

- Return flight Dublin—Rome
- Return airport transfers with assistance
- Half day orientation tour of Rome by coach with guide
- Vatican Museums—including entrance fee and guide
- Excursion to Castelgandolfo
- Excursion to Florence
- Excursion to Siena
- Services of a MAP Travel representative

Booking forms are available from Parish Office. Places are strictly limited.

CURA

Unplanned pregnancy is hard to face.

Cura provide a range of supports and services to women dealing with an unplanned pregnancy including:

- FREE PREGNANCY TESTING
- SUPPORT
- INFORMATION ON SOCIAL WELFARE AND OTHER RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS
- SUPPORT WITH ACCOMMODATION, IF REQUIRED

Centres in Dundalk and Drogheda. 1850622626.

PARISH STATISTICS 2010

20 Funerals. 27 Weddings.

63 Baptisms. 60 Confirmed.

Accord Pre Marriage Courses Accord Pre-Marriage Courses cover the following topics

1. Family of Origin

This is where we invite the couples to look back at what has influenced and shaped their lives to the present day within their own families, and the 'baggage' they bring with them to their relationship with their partner.

2. Communication

This module is one of the core modules, which influences everything else we do during the day, as it teaches couples to talk and LISTEN to one another.

3. Commitment

We explore and discuss their commitment to marriage within a Christian context. Couples are left in no doubt that while marriage is personally enriching, it demands hard work and commitment to each other, every day of their married life.

4. Conflict

This is a part of every day living. We try to make couples aware, that how they solve conflict is the singular indicator of a good marriage relationship, without resorting to physical violence or abuse.

5. Children

This module is divided into 3, reflecting on one's own sexuality, fertility and how children enhance a relationship.

6. Church

We look at marriage as a covenant rather than a contract. We help couples with the practical details of the requirements of Church and State, and an overview of the sacrament and marriage ceremony.

The following are the dates of Pre-Marriage workshops. All couples should book and attend an Accord Pre-Marriage Workshop at least 6—12 months before marriage. Book at www.accord.ie

January: Friday 14th & Sat. 15th

February: Friday 18th & Sat. 19th.

March: Friday 25th & Sat. 26th.

April: Sunday 10th & Sunday 17th.

May: Friday 13th & Sat. 14th.

June: Friday 17th & Sat. 18th.

Sept.: Friday 16th & Sat. 17th.

Oct.: Friday 14th & Sat. 15th.

Nov.: Friday 18th & Sat. 19th.

Dec.: Sunday 4th & Sunday 11th.

**This Week's Collections: Plate: €1,531 .
Envelopes: €2,084. Many thanks to all.**

COMMUNITY NOTICES:

Social Services Christmas Party Cabra Castle today, 9th Jan., 2011, at 2 p.m.

Active Retirement Meeting 14th January, at 2.30 p.m. All members are invited to attend.

A.A. Meetings take place in St. Mary's Hall on Thursdays at 8.30 p.m. Phone 0290434848.

A.A. General Service Office at 01/8420700 or email gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie

Stars Community Forum in Club Pavilion 7—9 p.m. Fri. 14th Jan. All members, non members & local businesses & organisations are invited to discuss the club's role in progressing both the club and community.

Stars Lotto Result: 01, 02, 24, 26. No winner. Next jackpot €6,400.