

## **World Meeting of Families in Dublin & the Testimony of Archbishop Vigano**

The gathering in Dublin on the occasion of the 9<sup>th</sup> World Meeting of Families was very enriching and encouraging; there are many working to strengthen marriage preparation around the world and to support families.

It was a joy to be invited to the meeting Pope Francis held with the Irish Jesuits at the Apostolic Nunciature on Saturday afternoon. The Holy Father came into the meeting with a heavy heart as he had just met with victims of abuse by clergy and church workers.

Despite that, his spirits were lifted by the fraternal encounter he shared with his confreres. He was asked how he continued to find joy amid the many challenges he faces and he responded that he did not know precisely but mentioned his recitation daily of a prayer attributed to St. Thomas More asking for a sense of humour—and that this might occasion his spiritual help.

The next day, « the Testimony of Archbishop Vigano » concerning issues of abuse by clergy and subsequent episcopal cover-up—chiefly in the United States but with implications elsewhere—began to unsettle many in the Church.

I do not have a solution to offer in order to deal with this and the feelings evoked, except to encourage each person to call on the Holy Spirit to purify the Body of Christ at this time and to bring about justice and healing for victims of abuse who continue to suffer. Let us pray especially for Pope Francis in this challenging time.

I also invite you to call on the Lord Jesus in prayer and penance that all may be able to stand steadfast in the faith. Let us also invoke the intercession of Our Blessed Mother Mary and the saints to obtain for us serenity and peace.

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