



DICASTERIUM
PRO LAICIS, FAMILIA ET VITA

Vatican City, January 30, 2019

Prot. No. 2018/977

Dear Sir,

I write to invite you to our forthcoming international conference entitled “Yes to Life! Caring for the precious gift of life in its frailness”, organized by our Dicastery with the collaboration of the Italian Foundation *Il Cuore in una Goccia*, a non-profit Foundation, and which will take place at the Rome Centro Congressi Augustinianum (in Via Paolo VI, No. 25), from the 23rd to the 25th of May, 2019.

Perinatal medicine today offers extraordinary opportunities for assistance in nascent life, but at the same time poses important questions in the concrete accompaniment of couples and families who experience the birth of a child. Faced with the challenges of welcoming children diagnosed with fetal pathologies and of assisting families to grasp the authentic “quality and value of every human life”, we would like to offer a moment of formation, and of scientific and pastoral information, in order to promote a truly welcoming culture of nascent life as gift to be received and “an opportunity to grow in love, mutual aid and unity” (*Amoris Laetitia*, 47).

The conference participants will include doctors and experts in the field of prenatal care, medical interns specializing in gynaecology, representatives from several Dicasteries of the Roman Curia. Considering the needs of pastoral care and accompaniment of affected families, we have also invited bishops, priests and officials of episcopal and diocesan life committees, commissions and offices, as well as members of relevant associations, from around the world.

For this reason, we would be pleased if you could participate or send someone to represent your Episcopal Conference, and through shared involvement and participation, mutually benefit in what we hope may be, as desired by Pope Francis, a more concrete pastoral approach for the welcome and embrace of nascent life diagnosed with fetal pathologies.

A provisional program of the Conference is attached to this letter, from which you will be able to see the breadth of the themes dealt. I am pleased to inform you also that the Holy Father has granted us a special audience where all the Conference participants will have a unique opportunity to heed his exhortation on this important subject. To register for the event, please complete the attached form, which provides you with important information for your participation.

While thanking you for your attention, may I take this opportunity to assure Your Excellency of my fraternal regards and cordial best wishes in the Lord. Having the honor to be,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Kevin Card. Farrell

Prefect