

## **FIVE PROGRAMMATIC MESSAGES**

- 1) Family associationism is a fundamental human right called to develop and serve two essential dimensions in its action: a) an internal dimension by strengthening the natural family identity; b) another external dimension by favoring the creation of “family citizenship”.
- 2) The cultural challenges that currently affect society are of a specifically anthropological nature. The natural family is the only institution that is fully in a position to bring solutions to this crisis by showing the unique beauty of the person as a family being.
- 3) Only the natural family is the most appreciated institution in the transmission of human and Christian values through family education which takes on a constitutive, irreplaceable dimension in the family in the transmission of integral education to the new generations.
- 4) A human being’s social vocation is expressed adequately in society through the virtues and values which the family generates and spreads. Justice, solidarity and peace make up the three essential terms for the progress and integral development of Humanity.
- 5) The family associations are called to draw the public authorities’ attention to the goods, rights and duties regarding the family, the essential cell for the social fabric of our civilizations. The central challenge to which we are called is to justify the good and the advantages which the natural healthy family contributes to the common good.

With Cicero we can say centuries later that his words are up-to-date: *“Familia est principium urbis et quasi seminarium rei publicae”*. The family is the center for the creation of ties and the birth of offspring.

Msgr. Carlos Simon Vazquez  
Under-Secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Family