



Abp. Vincenzo Paglia – Puerto Rico – October 13,2021

The family today (summary)

On a global level, today's social debate on the de facto family is centered on a basic question: is the so-called natural family (whether nuclear, that is, made up of the abiding male-female couple with their children, or extended, that is, including close relatives in the household) still a resource for the individual and for society, or is it instead a legacy of the past that hinders the emancipation of individuals and the advent of a freer, more egalitarian and happier society? Of course, the family today is losing the protections of the past and now advances in the open sea of a society that is no longer favorable to it, but in the best cases indifferent. Individuals construct the family in the most diverse ways, and society encourages them to do so with the maximum variability. But what are the consequences? And again: what to do? (...)

The family must return to the center of culture, politics and the economy. Dear friends - in conclusion and in a very concise but clear way - I am convinced that the family must be brought back into the heart of cultural debate, to the center of the political and economic vision itself, as well as in our ecclesial communities, not to be a reality closed in on itself; on the contrary, it must be conceived and realized as a reality that goes beyond itself. In this sense, globalized society will be able to build a civilized future if and insofar as it is able to promote a culture of the family that rethinks it as a vital link between private happiness and public happiness.

I sincerely hope that the new Associated Center of the John Paul II Institute that we are opening here in Arecibo, within the broader pastoral action of this local church, will serve this great and crucial purpose.

(original text: Italian; translation by Leonardo Stefanucci; revised by Fabrizio Mastrofini)

L'Istituto San José di Arecibo è Centro Associato al Pontificio Istituto Teologico Giovanni Paolo II per le Scienze del Matrimonio e della Famiglia. La Convenzione è stata firmata il 18.06.2021 dal Preside (all'epoca mons. Pierangelo Sequeri), dal Gran Cancelliere Mons. Vincenzo Paglia, dal Vescovo di Arecibo Mons. Daniel Fernández Torres e dal Direttore dell'Istituto prof. César A. Serrano Zuluaga.

El Instituto San José de Arecibo es un Centro Asociado del Pontificio Instituto Teológico Juan Pablo II para las Ciencias del Matrimonio y la Familia. La Convención fue firmada el 18.06.2021 por el Decano (entonces Mons. Pierangelo Sequeri), por el Gran Canciller Mons. Vincenzo Paglia, por el Obispo de Arecibo Mons. Daniel Fernández Torres y por el Director del Instituto prof. César A. Serrano Zuluaga.

The San José Institute of Arecibo is an Associated Center of the Pontifical Theological Institute "John Paul II" for Marriage and the Family Sciences. The Association Agreement was signed on 18.06.2021 by the Dean (at the time Mons. Pierangelo Sequeri), by the Grand Chancellor Mons. Vincenzo Paglia, by the Bishop of Arecibo Mons. Daniel Fernández Torres and by the Director prof. César A. Serrano Zuluaga.