

NATIONAL WEEK FOR LIFE AND THE FAMILY
MAY 12-19, 2013

– An initiative of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops –

Why celebrate life and the family together?

- Each family is a source of life and a school for life.
- Families whenever possible accompany its members from birth to death, and in both sickness and health.
- Concern for the family and life is essential to the mission of the Christian community, and thus key to the Church's call for a new evangelization.
- As the Church focuses on the new evangelization, the Christian family is called upon to embrace in a unique way the invitation Christ extends to us at his Ascension – to proclaim the Good News of Life to the whole world.
- “The family has a natural vocation to promote life: it accompanies individuals as they mature and it encourages mutual growth and enrichment through caring and sharing. The Christian family in particular serves as a seedbed for personal maturation according to the standards of divine love... It is in the family that peacemakers, tomorrow's promoters of a culture of life and love, are born and nurtured” (Pope Benedict XVI, *Message for the World Day of Peace*, January 1, 2013, n. 6).