

**Circular Letter**  
**of H.L. Mario Grech**  
**Bishop of Gozo**  
**Questionnaire about the Family**  
**in preparation for the Bishops' Synod**

To the Reverend Archpriests, Chaplains, Rectors of Churches, Religious Superiors, Consecrated Persons and Catholic Laity.

In October 2014, H.H. the Pope will call an Extraordinary Synod of Bishops to discuss the pastoral challenges facing the family. In preparation for the Synod the Pope desired that all Catholics should mention their difficulties and express their ideas regarding the situation of the family, and how the Church could be of assistance. A questionnaire, which is being distributed to all homes in Malta, has been prepared for this purpose. It is also available from the website of the Archdiocese of Malta

I wish to encourage everybody (Pastoral Parochial Councils, Catholic Groups and Movements, and individuals) to answer this questionnaire. It is possible that you may feel some questions to be somewhat difficult. If you have any difficulty, abandon that question and move to the next one.

The completed questionnaire should be placed in a box kept for the purpose in the church. Those who can fill the form in the website would be facilitating the work of the Research Institute *Discern* in collating the report of the responses. This report will be sent to the Holy See in preparation for the Bishops' Synod which will discuss the same subject next October. The replies have to be submitted by the end of December.

I take this opportunity to wish everybody a Holy Christmas and a New Year of blessings and good fortune.

Given at the Bishop's Curia, Rabat, Gozo, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2013

+ Mario Grech

Bishop of Gozo

Mons. Salv Debrincat

Chancellor