



UNIVERSITY OF  
ST. THOMAS

Donald S. Nesti, CSSp  
Center for Faith & Culture

# Year of The Family - Events

## December 2020

### Academic institutional family

Conversation Participants: Joe Garcia-Prats,  
Cathy Garcia-Prats

- Focus on University Family – professors, students, staff family
- Building up community among an institutional family
- Recognizing how God has gifted each department, group, etc.
- Make university best it can be – create trust among university community
- Create a culture of working together

## January 2021

### Parish family

Conversation Participants: Fr. Vincent Nguyen

- Show the connectedness of a parish as a family
- Bring groups of parish together to have a voice
- Cohesion among parish groups to create family environment
- Pastors working together with groups for feedback/to make decisions

## February 2021

### Generational Family

Conversation Participants: Pete and Kathy Hiatt, daughter

- Generation gaps. Cultural, educational differences
- Finding a common language among generations
- Wisdom, heritage of elders – religious values, dialogue, in-person connection

### Conference

Participants: Pierre Cannings

- Breaking open academic, parish and generational families



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## April 2021

### Self-Encounter

Conversation Participants: Cathy Garcia-Prats,  
Fr. Binh

- Understanding how you're different from your parents, family, spouse
- Quiet time to listen to God – "What is your will for me?"
- Understanding what your calling is
- Self-awareness, self-appropriation, self-integration
- Move from self-centered to other-centered, God-centered
- What is the greater good for my family (us)?
  - Gifts versus formation of the heart
  - Career versus needs of the family
  - External values versus spiritual values
- Moral formation of the conscience - rarely taught
- Transform life into the image of God
- Humane Vitae
- Dialogue with self, God, with the Church, with others

## May 2021

### Family of Origin

- Shapes frame of reference for many things (unconscious)
- Discussing family of origin in a marriage
- Responding, not reacting, to each other after understanding family of origin
- Understanding how to resolve conflict through family interactions
- Parents knowing what career options their children should have
- Parents allowing children to make their own choices/mistakes
- Let them be who God wants them to be – let them discern their gifts
- Good sense of who we are, where we are coming from, for healthy boundaries

## June 2021

### Extended Family

- Two cultures coming together
- Two worldviews working together