



Roundtable 2. *Stable families, happy families*

The home

Bebi Calvimontes

If the family is the meeting place for different generations, the place where the family comes together, and should be happiest, is the home.

The home is a space which brings the family together, where family members live and share their lives, and it is in this shared relationship with other people where mankind finds happiness.

“There is a crucial connection between a well-managed home and family well-being”: this is the main message of the Home Renaissance Foundation for this IFFD Congress. With this message, we aim to motivate and encourage people to “create homes” which provide safe havens for families, and, in order to do so, it is essential that we promote a culture which values domestic tasks. It is vital to transmit, particularly to the new generations, the greatness achieved by good household management, and how enriching it is for all the members of a family to contribute their own particular skills to creating homes which help us all to develop in the best possible way.

Family life in the home is also an excellent place to learn skills which can also apply to our professional lives and community life in general: carrying out domestic tasks offers the best training, helping not only children, but also their parents, in their role as “home makers”, to develop skills and abilities which are also highly valued in the workplace and in the public arena.

The home offers personal well-being and security. It offers us emotional stability and generates genuine social development. For this reason, it is important that children, as well, from a very young age, form part of the team which contributes to “creating a home”. It is through learning to care for our homes that we learn how to look after the planet, offering us a specific way of responding to the call of Pope Francis in his second encyclical, *Laudato si'*, and ensuring the strengthening and sustainability of the family over time.

In a “sustainable home”, a concept coined by the consultancy firm Needo:

- We promote shared responsibility
- We integrate our professional and family lives
- We practice responsible consumption
- We use information and communication technologies in a healthy way
- We encourage intergenerational solidarity
- We develop the social innovators that the world needs

The warmth found in the home, the way family members are looked after, does not depend on material wealth or circumstances. The true meaning of “making a home”, of genuine family hospitality, is found in the essence of human nature, in the fact that love translates to the act of giving and receiving: salvaging the best of the past, living responsibly in the present, and leaving the best possible legacy for future generations.