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Abstract Currently, when attempts are made in various ways to weaken the family unit through the promotion of so-called open relationships, divorce and through the legalisation of homosexual partnerships, it seems that care and protection of the family unit is much more of a necessity now than in the past. That is why Pope John Paul II stated in apostolic exhortation *Familiaris consortio*, that care for the family should be the principal pastoral mission of the Church. Everybody, especially priests and all lay people should take all opportunities and make every effort to help married couples and families in fulfilling their basic duties.

The article is devoted to tasks of family pastoral care. They are: defense of human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death; preparation for marriage and life in family; help the family and especially young married couples; family counseling; pastoral care of families that are in difficult and abnormal situations. „The Church's pastoral action must be progressive in the sense that it must follow the family, accompanying it step by step in the different stages of its formation and development” (FC 65).