



Family Life

... providing information and resources to help parish staffs better partner with households of faith.

January - February 2014

MARRIAGE & FAMILY + PASTORAL CARE + PRO-LIFE + COUNSELING SERVICES

Human life must always be defended from its beginning in the womb and must be recognized as a gift of God that guarantees the future of humanity.

Pope Francis
Letter to Brazilian families
for National Family Week,
August 6, 2013

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All material in newsletter may be reproduced.

“ ... family is holy

Not because it is perfect but because God’s grace is at work...helping it to set out anew... everyday... on the way of love.”

Follow the Way of Love
Pastoral Message of the
U.S. Catholic Bishops

Marriage & Family Enrichment

contact: Sue Brodfehrer, sbrodfehrer@archlou.org

Family Enrichment

One Page Weekly Gospel Meditations Available Online to Parishes



David Thomas, PhD was invited to create a meditation on each Sunday’s gospel by the parishes of his home diocese, Helena, Montana. Currently it is being circulated in neighboring dioceses, as well as being read by members of the Christian Family Movement. If you would like to receive a monthly packet of these meditations (at no charge), please send him your email address. Permission is given to copy. Many parishes include them in their weekly bulletin or use them for discussion in parish Bible study groups and for RCIA programs. Contact David Thomas at dmtii@aol.com.

Lenten Ideas for Families

Family Nights

Young Families: Prayer Treasure Chest – Materials: shoe box or other box with a lid, old magazines, scissors, glue, stickers, colorful paper. Cut out pictures that remind you of hope and love, and glue them on the box. Have each member write (or help little ones write) three prayers on separate slips of paper. Place the prayers in the Treasure Chest and draw out a prayer to read before dinner or at the beginning of Family Night. Add new prayers and prayer intentions often.

Middle Years Families: Rice Bowl of Hope – Materials: bowl, paper, and pen. Or use Operation Rice Bowl box and activity ideas from Catholic Relief Services orb.crs.org. One way of sharing hope with others is by giving alms. Plan to conserve one meal a week and use the money for the Rice Bowl. At the end of Lent, give the money to your local poor or to Catholic Relief Services.

Adult Families: Read John 17:20-26 and Philippians 3:7-17. Share your thoughts, especially about the connections between faith and hope. Decide on a concrete action that will bring hope to someone in your family or community.

From a Family Enrichment Resource of the Christian Family Movement - visit: www.cfm.org



Operation Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten program, began in 1975 in the Diocese of Allentown, PA as a response to the drought in the African Sahel. For more than 35 years, Operation Rice Bowl has offered Catholics in the United States a way to connect with our brothers and sisters in need around the world.

Seventy-five percent of Operation Rice Bowl donations come to CRS to help fund development programs designed to increase food security around the world. Twenty-five percent of the donations support hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in dioceses within the U.S.

Visit www.csricebowl.org to find down-loadable ideas and activities to share with your families.

Marriage & Family Enrichment cont.

Marriage Preparation

Online, On-Demand Marriage Preparation

Now in Spanish and English!

"How do I work with couples who are physically distanced from one another?" Developed by the Family Ministries Office, Archdiocese of Chicago in collaboration with The Marriage Group, this program includes a Catholic Couple Check-up premarital inventory (FOCCUS inventory is not given if this marriage preparation program used), e-book resources, videos by experts and married couples, discussion questions and a 12 month follow-up. A certificate is given upon completion. If you would like a demo in Spanish, contact Valentin Araya, 312-534-8274 or varaya@archchicago.org. For the English version, visit www.catholicmarriageprepclass.com or call Sue.

FOCCUS 4th Edition Update

Local trainers and facilitators, Joe and Linda Niehaus provided this insight into the updated edition: *The format and categories have remained the same, but the individual statements have changed significantly. Many of the changes deal with the same subject matter as the former edition, but interpretations will be different than before.*

After ordering and receiving your new material, please take time to review the statements and feedback suggestions.

NB All parish facilitators must have new binders. Order now for \$25 each; after June 30, \$50 each.

Marriage Enrichment

Anniversary Mass, February 15

On Saturday, February 15, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz will celebrate an Archdiocesan Mass of Thanksgiving for couples celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20 & 25 years of marriage in 2014.

The celebration will be take place at St. Raphael Parish at the 4:00 Liturgy.

Once again, we rely on your help in registering parish couples celebrating these significant anniversaries. Registration information was sent to your parish in the Dec. 20th mailing from the Chancery.



Married Couples Retreat, March 1

Navigating the Mountains & Valleys of Marriage Together

Saturday, March 1, St. Margaret Mary

Whether married six months or 60 years, reenergize and retool your marriage by attending this day filled with humor and down to earth sharing.

Presenters: Michael & Joan Hoxsey and GERALYN & Tom Sparough

Sponsored by Region 7 parishes. Look for additional information in mailing from the Chancery.

Pastoral Care

contact: Michelle Herberger, mherberger@archlou.org

Befriender Parish Ministry Leadership Training

"Foundations for Befriender Ministry" is a workshop for leaders who want to implement and maintain a listening ministry of lay pastoral care in their parish. The small size of this highly interactive workshop allows workshop leaders to address the specific needs and questions of participants.

Who are the people in your faith community who need a BeFriender? Maybe it is a single parent struggling with raising children or a person living with a chronic illness. Perhaps it is an unemployed head of household weary from job hunting or a new mom adjusting to caring for a baby.

BeFriender Teams provide pastoral care for people in all kinds of difficult or transitional situations. They are trained lay volunteers who extend the care of their parish faith community.

Mark your calendars for upcoming training. April 8-11 at Maloney Center
Cost: \$749 per person before March 11; \$799 after March 11.

For more information on how to start a Befriender Team Ministry in your parish contact Michelle.

Gospel Meditation for Families

Archbishop Lori Applauds Supreme Court Decision to Hear Two Cases on HHS Mandate

- *Court to hear challenges from Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood*
- *Court will decide whether family-owned companies can exercise religion*
- *Individuals and families who own businesses seek to practice their faith in daily life*

WASHINGTON—Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, welcomed the U.S. Supreme Court's decision today to hear arguments in the cases of *Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* and *Conestoga Wood Specialties*. The U.S. government and the Hahn family, Mennonite owners of Conestoga Wood, a cabinet-making company, respectively, petitioned the Supreme Court to review these cases. The Court will consider the legality of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) "preventive services" mandate, which requires virtually all employers to include female sterilization and all drugs and devices approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as contraceptives in their employee health care plans.

"The Supreme Court's review of these cases highlights the importance of this conflict between the federal government and people seeking to practice their faith in daily life," said Archbishop Lori. "We pray that the Supreme Court will find that the Constitution and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act protect everyone's right to religious freedom. We are encouraged by the advances in the lower federal courts so far in cases involving family-owned companies as well as non-profit religious organizations. On behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, I would like to thank all of the litigants—including those who run diocesan service ministries as well as the lay faithful who run closely-held businesses—for their courageous actions in seeking religious liberty in courts around the country."

The HHS mandate requires family-owned businesses like Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood to cover abortifacient and contraceptive drugs and devices in their employee health care plans, even if providing those particular items violates the religious beliefs of the individuals who own and operate the company. In a unanimous "Special Message" on the HHS mandate issued last month, the U.S. bishops reaffirmed their opposition to a mandate that "compels our faithful people in business to act against our teachings, failing to provide them any exemption at all."

These cases are among at least 84 lawsuits filed by over 200 plaintiffs against the HHS mandate.

Word of Life, USCCB

The *Word of Life* series from the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities is a monthly liturgical resource containing prayer intentions, bulletin quotes, and occasional homily notes for use in the parish. Material is in both Spanish and English.

Jan 5 SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

For all Christians on the Feast of the Epiphany, that we might always see the image of Christ in others;

Jan 12 FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

For all baptized Christians: May the Lord grant them the grace to live out their baptismal call with renewed joy and to recognize within this call a need to respect all life from conception to natural death;

Jan 19 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For mothers considering abortion: That through the intercession of St. John the Baptist, who praised the Lord as an unborn infant, the Lord might give them courage to welcome the gift of their child;

Jan 22 (Wednesday) DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

For all elected officials: That the Holy Spirit would inspire them to enact laws that defend and promote the right to life of all human beings, especially those not yet born;

Jan 26 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For families whose homes have been darkened by miscarriage, that the light of Christ will pierce through their suffering and bring them hope;

For February's intercessions, visit Word for Life at: www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources-for-the-eucharist/word-of-life/

Catholics @ the Capitol

Catholics @ the Capitol coming in February:

It is almost time for another Catholics @ the Capitol gathering. The latest issue of WITNESS, [now online](http://www.usccb.org/publications/newsletters), includes the schedule for the two day event taking place on Feb. 3 and 4, as well as some excellent articles on important education issues facing non-public schools.

Archbishop Kurtz will be the celebrant at the liturgy and Bishop Gainer is the homilist.



Pro-Life cont.

March for Life - January 22

Youth Rally and Mass Washington DC

For information, please contact Pro-Life Coordinator, Ed Harpring by email or 502-471-2154.



Prayerful Presence - the Unborn

Helpers of God's Precious Infants Mass www.helpersloisville.org

7:00 a.m. Mass – Cathedral of the Assumption
followed by prayer at Abortion Clinic

Sat., Jan 11 TBD

Sat., Feb 8 Fr. Francis Ralph presiding

Recipes for Family Living

Retrouvaille - a ministry for hurting marriages



This ministry provides a weekend retreat experience and six post sessions. The next weekend in Louisville area is Feb. 21 - 23, 2014

To learn more, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org

Marriage Encounter

A weekend enrichment retreat for married couples
Next weekend in Louisville:

February 7 - 9, 2014

To learn more, visit www.wwme.org



For Retrouvaille and Marriage Encounter brochures for your parish, contact, family@archlou.org

World Marriage Day, Sunday, February 9

In 1983, World Marriage Day was designated as a day to honor the husband and wife as the head of the family, the basic unit of society. How will your parish recognize married couples this year?

For ideas, visit: wmd.wwme.org

Trainings

Spring 2014—Marriage Preparation Trainings

Parish Sponsor Couple Training

Tuesdays, March 11, 18, 25 at 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Maloney Center Cost: \$30 per couple

Attendance is necessary at all three sessions.

Deadline: March 1

Training for use of FOCCUS Instrument

Tuesdays, April 1 & 8 at 6:45 - 9:15 p.m.

Maloney Center

Cost: \$65; \$10 for retraining

Deadline: March 21

To register for either training, contact Carolyn at 502-471-2142 or ckupper@archlou.org

Staff

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Maloney Center, 1200 So. Shelby Street, Louisville, KY 40203
www.archlou.org/family

We invite your comments & suggestions.

Contact: Family Ministries - 502-636-0296; family@archlou.org

Counseling Services - 502-636-1044; counseling@archlou.org

