

January - February 2015

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

Marriage & Family Enrichment

contact: Sue Brodfehrer, sbrodfehrer@archlou.org

World Marriage Day - Sunday, February 8

"I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unflinchingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord.'"



Evangelii Gaudium



World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.

The idea of celebrating marriage began in Baton Rouge, La., in 1981, when couples encouraged the Mayor, the Governor and the Bishop to proclaim St. Valentine Day as "We Believe in Marriage Day." The event was so successful, the idea was presented to and was adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter's National Leadership.

By 1982, 43 Governors officially proclaimed the day and celebrations spread to U.S. military bases in several foreign countries. In 1983, the name was changed to "World Marriage Day," designated to be celebrated each year on the second Sunday in February. In 1993, Saint John Paul II, imparted his Apostolic Blessing on World Marriage Day.

Would you like to recognize World Marriage Day in your parish?

Visit <http://wmd.wme.org/> for liturgical aids, a sample prayer service, a sample renewal of vows, reproducible marriage prayer cards, and much more.

Listed below are some ideas you may wish to incorporate into your parish activities. More ideas are available on the website.

- During announcement time, recognize married couples present at Mass by having all married couples stand. Start seating them in increments of five years, until the couple married longest is left standing. You may consider presenting that couple with a certificate, flowers, or a small gift. Be prepared for more than one!
- Hold a reception for all parish members after services. Pictures of parish members' wedding ceremonies can decorate the room. Serve wedding cake and punch. Have the couple that has been married the longest cut the cake.
- Share different marriage customs with the parish by having couples from different ethnic backgrounds explain customs unique to their heritage.

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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

Anniversary Mass



On Saturday, February 14, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz will celebrate an Archdiocesan Mass of Thanksgiving for couples celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20 & 25 years of marriage in 2015. The celebration will be take place at St. Raphael Parish at their 4:00 p.m. Liturgy.

As always, we rely on the help of parish staff in registering couples celebrating these anniversaries. (Registration information was sent to the attention of your parish secretary in the Dec. 12th mailing from the Chancery.)

Marriage & Family Enrichment cont.

Lenten Resolutions for Married Couples Inspired by Pope Francis

by Bethany Meola the Assistant Director of the USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

Are you wondering how to grow in holiness this Lent, together with your spouse? Try following some advice from the Pope! In homilies and addresses, Pope Francis has spoken quite directly about how husband and wife should treat each other, about prayer within the family, and other ways the family lives its identity as a “domestic Church.” So this Lent, why not commit, with your spouse, to try one of the following Lenten resolutions, based on words from the Holy Father?

- 1) Be courteous to your spouse. Use polite requests: “May I? Can I?” For example, “Would you like for us to do this?” and “Do you want to go out tonight?”

“To ask permission means to know how to enter with courtesy into the lives of others. ... True love does not impose itself harshly and aggressively.” (*Address to Engaged Couples, Rome, Feb. 14, 2014.*)

- 2) Say “thank you” to your spouse. “It seems so easy to say these words, but we know that it is not. But it is important! ... It is important to keep alive the awareness that the other person is a gift from God - and for the gifts of God we say thank you!” (*Address to Engaged Couples, Rome, Feb. 14, 2014*)

- 3) Ask forgiveness from your spouse. Say, “I’m sorry.” “Let us learn to acknowledge our mistakes and to ask for forgiveness. ‘Forgive me if today I raised my voice;’ ‘I’m sorry if I passed without greeting you;’ ‘excuse me if I was late.’” (*Address to Engaged Couples, Rome, Feb. 14, 2014*)

“Never let the sun go down without making peace! Never, never, never!” (*Address to Engaged Couples, Rome, Feb. 14, 2014*)

“It is important to have the courage to ask forgiveness when we are at fault in the family.” (*Address to Participants in the Pilgrimage of Families, Rome, Oct. 26, 2013*)



- 4) Pray together with your spouse and family. “Praying the Our Father together, around the table, is not something extraordinary: it’s easy. And praying the Rosary together, as a family, is very beautiful and a source of great strength! And also praying for one another! The husband for his wife, the wife for her husband, both together for their children, the children for their grandparents... praying for each other. This is what it means to pray in the family and it is what makes the family strong: prayer.” (*Homily for Family Day, Rome, Oct. 27, 2013*)

Pray to the Lord to “multiply your love and give it to you fresh and good each day.” Pray together, “Lord, give us this day our daily love.” (*Address to Engaged Couples, Rome, Feb. 14, 2014*)

- 5) Visit the elderly, especially your grandparents. “Grandparents are like the wisdom of the family, they are the wisdom of a people.... Listen to your grandparents.” (*Address to Participants in the Pilgrimage of Families, Rome, Oct. 26, 2013*)

“How important grandparents are for family life, for passing on the human and religious heritage which is so essential for each and every society!” (*Angelus at World Youth Day, Rio de Janeiro, July 26, 2013*)

- 6) Share the faith with others. “Christian families are missionary families.... They are missionary also in everyday life, in their doing everyday things, as they bring to everything the salt and the leaven of faith!” (*Homily for Family Day, Rome, Oct. 27, 2013*)
from USCCB’s foryourmarriage.org with permission to reprint.

Lent Project for Families - Operation Rice Bowl



For more than 35 years, Operation Rice Bowl, a Catholic Relief Services’ Lenten program, 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 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.

Pro-Life

contact: Ed Harpring, eharpring@archlou.org

Annual March for Life— Washington, DC Thursday, January 22, 2015



The March for Life is an annual pro-life rally protesting abortion. It is held in Washington D.C. on the anniversary of the January 22, 1973 U.S. Supreme Court infamous decision in the Roe v. Wade case which legalized abortion for any reason throughout all nine months of pregnancy.

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/washington-area-events.cfm>

Approximately 500 students, chaperones, and adults will be attending from the Archdiocese of Louisville. Last year, an estimated 500,000 from across the country attended the March for Life, despite frigid temperatures and over a foot of snow. This is a remarkable testament to the determination and perseverance of the life advocates considering that many bus trips and flights were cancelled due to a major east coast snow storm.

Preceding the March for Life, there are several Masses; three of which are available to our pilgrims--an evening Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, and the morning of the March for Life, a Mass at the Basilica, followed by the Youth Rally & Mass for Life at the Verizon Center. Archbishop Kurtz will celebrate the morning Mass and concelebrate the Youth Mass.

Locally, the March for Life (youth groups and parishioners) will be gathering at the Cathedral's Undercroft at 4:30 pm on Thursday, January 22. The prayer & walk begins at 5:00 pm and finishes between 6:30 and 7:00 pm. For more information, please contact Ed Harpring at 502-471-2154. Let us hold all participants in prayer.

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 4 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

For all vulnerable people:
That we may love and care for them as the special gifts from God that they are;

Jan 11 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

For all who are suffering from the loss of a child through abortion:
May the Holy Spirit bring them peace;

Jan 18 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For parents facing challenging pregnancies:
May the Lord grant us the courage to walk with them, assist them, and invite them to put their trust in God;

Jan 25 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the grace to turn from actions that are not life-giving: May we repent and embrace God's mercy and love;

For February's intercessions, visit *Word of Life* at <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/word-of-life/index.cfm>

Catholic Conference of Kentucky



was created in 1984 by the Roman Catholic bishops of Kentucky. Its mission is to represent the Church and the state's four Roman Catholic dioceses in public policy matters on both the state and federal level.

The Conference seeks to promote the common good for all Kentuckians. Catholic Social Teaching defines that broad term as the total of all conditions necessary—economic, political, material, and cultural—which allows all people to realize their human dignity and reach their full human potential. In Kentucky, the staff works with the General Assembly, the governor, and state agencies, advocating for laws and policies that reflect Gospel values and the social teachings of the Church. At the federal level, the Conference's advocacy efforts focus on Kentucky's eight Congressional members. <http://cck.org/>

Attend a Catholics @ the Capitol Event in Your Area! As we prepare to begin the 2015 legislative session, each diocese will be hosting at least one Catholics @ the Capitol regional event. Each event is a chance to learn about CCK's legislative agenda and to interact with local legislators, who are also invited to attend. Make plans today to attend one near you. Below are the events scheduled in our diocese.

January 10 - 10:00 am - St. Catharine College

January 14 - 4:00 pm - St. Raphael the Archangel

Pro-Life cont.



**Lenten Campaign 2015
February 18 to March 29**

40 Days for Life is a peaceful interdenominational pro-life campaign with a vision to access God's power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil at over 250 abortion facilities throughout the world to end abortion.

During the fall campaign in Louisville, alone, over 700 people signed up to pray and 20 mothers changed their minds about abortion and chose life for their unborn children! Nationally, there were 546 babies saved from abortion – that we know of! And keep in mind that these aren't just numbers. That's 546 individual human beings ... and their moms ... and their dads ... and grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins. Each time a mother says "yes" to life, the impact is profound. Archbishop Kurtz, many of our pastors, and hundreds of parishioners have witnessed to the dignity of all human life through prayer, fasting and peaceful public witness.

With your support, we can continue to save lives and promote a culture of life. For more information, visit: <http://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/louisville/>

Helpers of God's Precious Infants Mass

Louisville Helpers of God's Precious Infants is a peaceful, prayerful lifesaving ministry that meets on the second Saturday of every month, with the exception of Mother's Day weekend in May. The prayer vigil begins with 7:00 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a rosary prayer procession to the local abortion facility, and Benediction upon return to the Cathedral. Those unable to process are invited to remain in Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral.



If your parish priest would like to celebrate a second Saturday Mass and lead the Rosary prayer procession, please contact Ed Harpring at 502-471-2154.



"Amen I say to you, as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me." (Mt. 25:40)

Jesus taught with love and compassion, ever mindful of the dignity of others. It is in this manner that Helpers of God's Precious Infants reaches out to unborn babies, their mothers, fathers, abortionists, and pro-abortion supporters. With love, all things are possible.

Pastoral Care

contact: Michelle Herberger, mherberger@archlou.org

Befriender Parish Ministry Leadership Training



A Listening Presence

"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 21 - 24 at Maloney Center

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

Pastoral Care cont.

Divorce



DivorceCare is a weekly seminar/support group that helps divorced or separated people heal from the hurt. It provides a warm, caring, and confidential environment in which participants can learn practical information and gain hope for the future. For more information and other resources visit:

www.divorcecare.org

SAVE THE DATES . . . 2015 Parish Support Groups

Our Lady of Lourdes Church Thursday evenings, February 5 - May 21

Contact: Joni Richter - jonir@ourlourdes.org; 502-896-0241, ext. 18

St. Bernadette Church -- May - August

Contact: Judy Montgomery - judy.montgomery@yahoo.com; 502-423-9724

St. Margaret Mary Church August - November

Contact: Denise Ruiz - druiz@stmm.org; 502-426-1588



Daily Inspiration Emails delivered right to your inbox for daily encouragement and inspiration from Divorcedcatholic.org, select "Sign Up" or email inspirations@divorcedcatholic.org

Marriage Encounter - a gift to any marriage

A weekend retreat for married couples who desire time away to enrich their marriage. Next Louisville area weekend - Feb. 6 - 8
To learn more, visit www.wwme.org



Retrouvaille - a ministry for hurting marriages

This ministry provides a weekend retreat experience plus six post sessions. Next Louisville area weekend - Feb. 6 - 8, 2015
To learn more, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org



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

Anniversary Mass

For Couples celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20 & 25 years of Marriage in 2015.

Saturday, February 14, 4:00 p.m. at St. Raphael.
(see page 1)

Helpers of God's Precious Infants Mass

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

Saturdays, January 10 & February 14
(see page 4)

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We invite your comments & suggestions. Contact:
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