



# Family Life

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

May - June 2014

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

"Every human person, male and female, is called to love, to live the gift of self, since he or she is made in the image of God who is Love. Every human person is a unity of body and soul. The human body is neither optional nor insignificant. Instead, the body is filled with meaning for it reveals and communicates the person."

"El Matrimonio: Hecho para el amor y la vida" Study Guide

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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

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### Pope Francis' Letter to Families - USCCB

Pope Francis recently wrote a letter to every family throughout the world, asking for prayers for the upcoming Synod in October. "With this letter, I wish, as it were, to come into your homes to speak about an event which will take place at the Vatican this coming October. It is the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is being convened to discuss the theme of 'pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization.' Indeed, in our day the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel by confronting the new and urgent pastoral needs facing the family."



He continued, "Such support on your part, dear families, is especially significant and more necessary than ever. This Synodal Assembly is dedicated in a special way to you, to your vocation and mission in the Church and in society; to the challenges of marriage, of family life, of the education of children; and the role of the family in the life of the Church."

For those looking for ways to participate in the Pope's request, the U.S. Bishops have invited the faithful to join a nationwide movement of prayer, penance, and sacrifice for the sake of renewing a culture of life, marriage, and religious liberty. For more information on this "Call to Prayer," visit: [usccb.org/pray](http://usccb.org/pray).

We have included Pope Francis' full letter to families in this mailing for use as you see fit.

### Ignorance About Marriage Is No Reason to Change Doctrine



One Man  
One Woman  
Love & Life



In a recent interview, Cardinal Gerhard Muller, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, explained that the teaching of the sacrament of marriage as an indissoluble bond between husband and wife cannot be changed.

He emphasized that it is "lamentable" that there is such a widespread misunderstanding, however "church dogma isn't just some theory created by some theologians;" it represents "the word of Jesus Christ, which is very clear." Cardinal Muller continued, "It would be paradoxical if the church said, 'Since not everyone knows the truth, the truth isn't obligatory for the future.'"

Speaking in reference to pastoral care, the Cardinal explained, "Doctrine and pastoral care are the same thing. Jesus Christ as pastor and Jesus Christ as teacher with his word are not two different people."

The full story is available from [Catholic News Service](http://Catholic News Service), [www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1400809.htm](http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/1400809.htm)

## Marriage & Family Enrichment cont.

### E-Zine for Newly Married Couples

Couples attending Foundation for Marriage automatically begin receiving this monthly e-newsletter the month after their marriage. It offers a relevant article along with several reflection questions. In addition there are links to articles on [ForYourMarriage.org](http://ForYourMarriage.org), as well as to other sites of interest to newly married couples.

### Newly Married Nuggets

A publication of the Archdiocese of Louisville



If your engaged couples attend the Engaged Encounter weekend or your parish sponsor couple program and you would like them to receive this enrichment, just send us the email address of a staff person. This person could then forward the e-newsletter to newly married couples in your parish. Eventually we would like to have sign-up available on our website.

### 2014 National Association of Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) Conference

#### “HOME IS A HOLY PLACE”

July 16 - 19, Dayton Ohio

For additional information regarding registration, pre-conference workshops, presentations/presenters, conference workshops and more, visit [NACFLM.org](http://NACFLM.org).



#### Keynotes and Plenary Sessions

Wed, July 16	KEYNOTE: Home is a Holy Place
Thur, July 17	KEYNOTE: The Gift of Cultural Hurricanes: How to Build Bridges that Empower Parents and Transform Catholic Families PLENARY: Marriage, Family, and the New Evangelization: The Bishops' Priority on Strengthening Marriage and Family Life
Fri, July 18	KEYNOTE: Encountering Christ in Families: Understanding the Needs of Families in This Period of the New Evangelization PLENARY: Preparing for the World Meeting of Families 2015
Sat, July 19	KEYNOTE: Sacred Dwelling: Prayer and Presence in the Midst of Dishes and the Daily Drudge

#### Benefits of attending NACFLM 2014

- Network with national leaders of family ministry.
- Meet & hear potential speakers for your parish/diocesan training events.
- Learn about the latest products & services for family ministry.
- Swap ideas & resources, plus receive encouragement & support from peers in other parishes or dioceses.
- Identify societal trends as they emerge
- Learn better & new ways to use technology & social networking in your ministry.

### Marriage Preparation

#### 4th Edition FOCCUS Reminder!



Don't forget to order a new 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Facilitator's Manual for all current parish FOCCUS facilitators. They are available for only \$25 until the June 1 deadline! The former binders and answer sheets may be recycled. A FOCCUS 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Facilitator's manual is required for all facilitators. *Scoring for the FOCCUS 3rd Edition will no longer be available after June 2014.*



## LETTER OF POPE FRANCIS TO FAMILIES

Dear families,

With this letter, I wish, as it were, to come into your homes to speak about an event which will take place at the Vatican this coming October. It is the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is being convened to discuss the theme of “pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization”. Indeed, in our day the Church is called to proclaim the Gospel by confronting the new and urgent pastoral needs facing the family.

This important meeting will involve all the People of God – bishops, priests, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful of the particular Churches of the entire world – all of whom are actively participating in preparations for the meeting through practical suggestions and the crucial support of prayer. Such support on your part, dear families, is especially significant and more necessary than ever. This Synodal Assembly is dedicated in a special way to you, to your vocation and mission in the Church and in society; to the challenges of marriage, of family life, of the education of children; and the role of the family in the life of the Church. I ask you, therefore, to pray intensely to the Holy Spirit, so that the Spirit may illumine the Synodal Fathers and guide them in their important task. As you know, this Extraordinary Synodal Assembly will be followed a year later by the Ordinary Assembly, which will also have the family as its theme. In that context, there will also be the World Meeting of Families due to take place in Philadelphia in September 2015. May we all, then, pray together so that through these events the Church will undertake a true journey of discernment and adopt the necessary pastoral means to help families face their present challenges with the light and strength that comes from the Gospel.

I am writing this letter to you on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. The evangelist Luke tells us that the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, in keeping with the Law of Moses, took the Baby Jesus to the temple to offer him to the Lord, and that an elderly man and woman, Simeon and Anna, moved by the Holy Spirit, went to meet them and acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah (cf. *Lk* 2:22-38). Simeon took him in his arms and thanked God that he had finally “seen” salvation. Anna, despite her advanced age, found new vigour and began to speak to everyone about the Baby. It is a beautiful image: two young parents and two elderly people, brought together by Jesus. He is the one who brings together and unites generations! He is the inexhaustible font of that love which overcomes every occasion of self-absorption, solitude, and sadness. In your journey as a family, you share so many beautiful moments: meals, rest, housework, leisure, prayer, trips and pilgrimages, and times of mutual support... Nevertheless, if there is no love then there is no joy, and authentic love comes to us from Jesus. He offers us his word, which illuminates our path; he gives us the Bread of life which sustains us on our journey.

Dear families, your prayer for the Synod of Bishops will be a precious treasure which enriches the Church. I thank you, and I ask you to pray also for me, so that I may serve the People of God in truth and in love. May the protection of the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph always accompany all of you and help you to walk united in love and in caring for one another. I willingly invoke on every family the blessing of the Lord.

*From the Vatican, 2 February 2014  
Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*

**FRANCIS**

## Pro-Life

contact: Ed Harpring, [eharpring@archlou.org](mailto:eharpring@archlou.org)

### *Our Lady of Czestochowa, the Black Madonna*



The replica of the famous icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa, or “Black Madonna,” will be in the Louisville Archdiocese  
May 5 - St. Aloysius, Pewee Valley  
May 6 - St. Martin of Tours, Louisville

In the summer 2012, a group of Catholic and Orthodox worshipers began the “Ocean to Ocean Pilgrimage” in the defense of life and family. The journey that crossed Russia and Europe has now come to the United States. The icon has already traveled more than 40,000 miles in 24 countries. Along the way, bishops and priests have celebrated liturgies and have given talks to inspire greater devotion to the Blessed Mother and to awaken the faithful to the urgency of recovering a true culture of life. Its international reputation has been considerably enhanced because of the personal devotion of Blessed John Paul II. Today the Shrine of Czestochowa in Poland attracts millions of worshipers and tourists who come to honor the miraculous image of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

For more information on the Black Madonna & scheduling in local parishes: [www.hli.org/hli\\_campaigns/ocean-ocean-pilgrimage/](http://www.hli.org/hli_campaigns/ocean-ocean-pilgrimage/)

### *Catholic Relief Services Protection from Human Traffickers*

You might think that after fleeing ethnic cleansing in the Balkans when she was a child, Armana had left the most dangerous time in her life behind her. Now 19, she remembers how her family was uprooted by war in the 1990s, when Yugoslavia fell apart.

But what awaited her, and many other Balkan refugees, was potentially as devastating. Human traffickers, who prey on poor or vulnerable people, sometimes target refugee camps or neighborhoods where displaced people live.

To read this entire article: [crs.org/bosnia-herzegovina/protection-from-trafficking/](http://crs.org/bosnia-herzegovina/protection-from-trafficking/)

To learn more about Catholic social teaching on this topic: [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/human-trafficking/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/human-trafficking/index.cfm)

### *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

May’s intercessions were not available at the time of this printing; however, May & June can be found at: [www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources-for-the-eucharist/word-of-life/](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources-for-the-eucharist/word-of-life/)

### *Helpers of God’s Precious Infants Mass*

7:00 a.m. Mass – Cathedral of the Assumption  
followed by prayer at Abortion Clinic  
Sat., May 17 Archbishop Joseph Kurtz  
Sat., June 14 Fr. Nicholas Brown

### *Echoing Pope Francis, Cardinal O’Malley & Bishops Decry Indifference to Suffering of Migrants under U.S. Immigration System, Call for Action*

“As a moral matter, our nation can no longer employ an immigration system that divides families and denies basic due process protections to our fellow human beings,” said Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, auxiliary bishop of Seattle and chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration.

Members of the delegation have called upon Congress – specifically the House of Representatives – to move quickly to fix a broken system. [www.usccb.org/news/2014/14-059.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/news/2014/14-059.cfm)

### *Use of Adult Stem Cells to Fight Disease from USCCB’s Website*

“Sometimes it is wrongly said that the Catholic Church opposes stem cell research. In fact, the Church supports ethically responsible stem cell research, while opposing any research that exploits or destroys human embryos.... The Catholic Church has long supported research using stem cells from adult tissue and umbilical cord blood, which poses no moral problem. Catholic institutions at times have taken the lead in promoting such constructive research, which is already providing cures and treatments for suffering patients.”

To learn more: [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/stem-cell-research/catholic-support-for-ethically-acceptable-stem-cell-research.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/stem-cell-research/catholic-support-for-ethically-acceptable-stem-cell-research.cfm)

## Pro-Life cont.

### *Life Issues Forum: For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion* by Tom Grenchik, Executive Director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, USCCB

For any of us who have joined in a Divine Mercy Chaplet a few times, the response is automatic. We simply hear: "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion..." and our lips are already responding with: "Have mercy on us and on the whole world."

How consoling it is to embrace our Lord's Divine Mercy and be confident in his forgiveness. We know He will forgive any sin, if we are truly sorry. But for some, especially those who have lost a child to abortion, trusting in that forgiveness is not so easy. Even if they trust in God's capacity and overwhelming desire to forgive them, they still often struggle with forgiving themselves.

To read more: [www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/life-issues-forum/for-the-sake-of-his-sorrowful-passion.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/life-issues-forum/for-the-sake-of-his-sorrowful-passion.cfm)

In our Diocese, refer individuals to Project Rachel, 502-471-2155 (confidential line) or email [ProjectRachel@archlou.org](mailto:ProjectRachel@archlou.org).

## Counseling Services

contact: Martine Siegel, [msiegel@archlou.org](mailto:msiegel@archlou.org)

### Child Abuse Prevention

April was National Child Abuse Prevention month. While this is a month set aside to raise awareness of childhood abuse, we must be vigilant year round for signs of child abuse in our own homes, schools, parishes, and communities. Together we CAN make a difference in educating our children and adults, and hopefully put an end to this horrific blight in our society. Below is the prayer I read before each Safe Environment Training for the volunteers and staff of our Archdiocese. It is from the USCCB.

#### *"Child Abuse Prevention Blessing"*

*Dear Lord, We ask You to bless these, your holy people who have participated in the Church's efforts to help stop child sexual abuse. Open their hearts to Your call to be the "ears, eyes, and voice of children and young people" everywhere. Give them the vision and grace needed to fulfill the special commitments that each of them has made to making their homes, churches, schools, communities and world a safer place for all God's Children. Amen.*

It is a tremendous responsibility to minister to the young people in our parishes and schools. With this responsibility comes the commitment to keep them safe to the best of our ability. This means watching, listening, and being aware of their concerns, or OUR concerns if we suspect something is "not quite right." Children who are being abused, whether that is physically, sexually, or emotionally, many times feel frightened, isolated and alone. Their abusers like to keep them in that state. YOU may be the person they choose to tell that something horrific is happening in their lives. We cannot let them down. The strength and productivity of our society depends on a healthy next generation. Together let's do all we can to prevent childhood abuse in all its forms. We will ALL benefit.



One of the best websites I have seen on the prevention of childhood abuse is [www.americanhumane.org](http://www.americanhumane.org). The tips are excellent. Please take the time to read some ways that we can all do something, no matter how small, to prevent abuse in our community. Remember too, that if you suspect or are aware of child abuse, YOU MUST REPORT IT IMMEDIATELY. IT IS THE LAW. Document that you have called Child Protective Services with the date and time for your files, and get a case number for your report as well. It is a good idea to also document why you called. We CAN make a difference.

For additional resources and information that may be useful throughout the year: [www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/resources/child-abuse-prevention-month-resources.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/resources/child-abuse-prevention-month-resources.cfm)

## Pastoral Care

contact: Michelle Herberger, [mherberger@archlou.org](mailto:mherberger@archlou.org)



### Hospital Befriender Ministry Training

Like many in our Church and in our world, I find myself invigorated by the words of our Holy Father in *Evangelii Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel*. Pope Francis invites us to take the love of Jesus, which we have received, first and “above all [to] the sick, those who are usually despised and overlooked, ‘those who cannot repay you.’” He goes on to say, “...the poor are the privileged recipients of the Gospel.”

As you know, illness has a way of isolating people, thus creating poverty of relationship and of meaningful activity. One way we can respond to the call to be with those who suffer, is to visit the sick in our hospitals.

Several years ago, our archdiocese, in cooperation with five area hospitals (Baptist Health, University, Jewish, Kossair, Sts. Mary and Elizabeth) and the national office of BeFriender Ministry, created the *BeFriender Hospital Ministry*. This unique pastoral care ministry program creates volunteer lay hospital teams for visitation to Catholic patients and their families. These teams provide a spiritually supportive, non-judgmental, listening presence of compassionate care.

Information sessions regarding a Fall training will be held at 10:00 a.m., Maloney Center on these Wednesdays: June 25, July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6. Registration is required. Call: 502-636-0296, ext. 1203.

## Recipes for Family Living

### 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 - Sept. 26-28  
To learn more, visit [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org)



### Retrouvaille - a ministry for hurting marriages

This ministry provides a weekend retreat experience plus six post sessions. Next Louisville weekend - Sept. 19-21  
To learn more, visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org)



For Marriage Encounter and Retrouvaille brochures for your parish, contact, [family@archlou.org](mailto:family@archlou.org)

## Trainings

### Fall 2014—Marriage Preparation Trainings

Dates for Parish Sponsor Couple Training and FOCCUS Inventory Training are still being determined. They will be posted on our website in addition to being included in the July - August Family Life Newsletter. Date information will also be sent in the mailing from the Chancery.

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We invite your comments & suggestions.  
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