

November - December 2014

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

From Pope Francis ...



A family enlightened by the Gospel provides a school for Christian living. There one learns faithfulness, patience and sacrifice.

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"... 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

Gifts of Love this Christmas

When a couple marries, they form a "domestic church," a "church of the home." It is within this "church" that family members learn a spirit of generosity, of forgiveness, of hospitality. These lessons are not just for the very young; God's grace always challenges us to growth. Below are some Christmas giving ideas. How might your "church of the home" share love differently this Christmas?

From Aunts/Uncles to Nieces/Nephews:

- 1) A homemade "favorite family stories" booklet telling tales of humorous or significant family times together.

From Young Children to Grandparents:

- 1) A homemade booklet with drawings of the family – a close-up of Grandma and Grandpa, a story about a favorite activity done with them, pictures drawn of their house, pets, this year's Christmas tree, etc..

From Grandparents to Grandchildren:

- 1) A booklet of photos of the grandchildren's parents when they were babies and children.
- 2) A letter to the child sharing the meaning of Christmas.
- 3) A coupon for an activity together.

From Godparents to Godchildren:

- 1) An annual holiday trip to see a play, attend a concert, or take a winter hike.
- 2) An age appropriate book of prayers.
- 3) A shopping trip to buy Christmas gifts for the child's parents.
- 4) Grown godchildren - Consider a mission trip to a needy country.

For a Teacher:

- 1) A book with a handmade bookmark.
- 2) Donation to a local non-profit organization.

A Gift from your Family to a Family Living in Poverty:

- 1) An animal from Heifer International www.heifer.org (The family who receives the animal learns how to care for it and promises to pass on some of the offspring to others.)
- 2) Adopt a local refugee family or elderly individual resettled by Catholic Charities. For information contact Chris Clements: 502-636-9263

A Hospitality Gift:

- 1) Fair trade coffee or tea (the growers get most of the profit instead of the middlemen) www.fairtradefederation.com; some local stores carry fair trade items now.
- 2) Artisan products made in third world countries (again, the profit goes to the producer). In Louisville, Just Creations is a good source of these products. <https://www.facebook.com/justcreationsfairtrade>

Marriage & Family Enrichment cont.

What Have You Done for Your Marriage Today?

by Rick McCord

www.ForYourMarriage.org



Imagine your marriage as a garden, or a new car, or even as a 401K account. If you didn't devote time and attention to any of these possessions, they would turn to weeds, or develop mechanical problems, or leave you in a financial bind for retirement. So you do a lot, on a regular basis, to avoid these unhappy consequences. What about your marriage? Doesn't it deserve at least equal attention?

Marriage is much more complicated than a garden, or a car, or an investment portfolio. The inter-weaving of two lives and families, the building of trust and intimacy, learning how to anticipate and respond to the needs of a spouse: all these tasks pose difficult challenges and are accomplished only over the course of a lifetime.

As the saying goes, some marriages may be made in heaven, but all marriages require work on earth.

. . . What are some common reasons for not acting? First, there's the fatalistic attitude that looks at the divorce rate and the experience of family or friends who have been divorced. You think "I've got a 50-50 chance of failing or succeeding in marriage. In the end, it's mostly outside my control."

Next, there's the notion that a happy marriage depends heavily on finding your perfect soul mate, the person who will fulfill all your needs and desires. Therefore, if you search hard enough and are lucky enough to find him or her, you will be destined to live happily ever after.

Finally—and this attitude pertains mainly to men — there's the belief that success in marriage is largely the responsibility of women who possess the better developed relational skills. So, if marriage draws upon such skills as communication and empathy and caring, then maintaining the relationship becomes mostly "her job."

These attitudes are obstacles to fully participating in your marriage. They prevent you from becoming, in a full sense, the sacrament whose beginning you celebrated and consented to on your wedding day. Adopting such attitudes and falling into the behaviors they represent also contradict an ancient and very wise principle in Catholic theology, namely, grace builds on nature. This insight from our faith tradition means simply that God works with the tools we give him. If we make some effort to develop a virtue, then the gift of grace can help us to achieve it more completely. However, God will not act in place of or in spite of us. We must freely participate.

What have you done for your marriage today? . . . let me suggest three ways to approach the question.

- Consider yourself and the changes you need to make in your own life. What bad habits or annoying traits do you have that particularly bother your spouse? What tasks are you always forgetting to do? To what other personal activities do you give more priority than spending time together as a couple? Do something for your marriage by making improvements in the only person you can change, namely, yourself!
- Focus on your spouse. Hugging, kissing, and saying "I love you" are good and necessary things. But try to get even more specific. What gifts and abilities does your spouse have that delight you and bring life to your relationship? Name them in specific terms. Pay a compliment or offer an affirmation based on one of these gifts.
- Turn your attention outward beyond the two of you and do something for the good of your family, your children, or community. Love begets life and produces more love. It's an infinitely renewable source of energy. As you know, the two equal purposes of marriage are to share love and give life. So, when you extend yourselves in service, individually or together, you are expressing the meaning of marriage. You're saying that your commitment to each other is strong enough to include a wider circle of caring.

Remember - grace builds on nature. Do something for your marriage today!

Dr. Rick McCord was the Executive Director of the Office for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and in this role as the principal spokesperson on marriage issues. Rick and his wife Denise have been married for thirty-seven years.



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Pastoral Care

contact: Michelle Herberger, mherberger@archlou.org

Evening of Prayer for Those Who have Experienced a Miscarriage or Stillbirth

This evening of prayer offers individuals and couples who have experienced a miscarriage or stillbirth during the past year an opportunity to remember their child and to experience the love and support of their Church community. Please join us on Thursday, November 13, 7:00 p.m. at St. Barnabas Church (3024 Hikes Lane, Louisville). Fr. Paul Scaglione will serve as the presider. Questions? Contact Michelle: 502-636-0296, ext. 1201



Day of Reflection for Medical Professionals

Medicine & the Catholic Church Serving in the Era of Pope Francis

Saturday, November 15
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Maloney Center
Registration fee \$20 (includes lunch)

Presenter: Michael Ahrens, Retired Mission Director of Kentucky One Health explores the challenges presented by Pope Francis.

For information, call 502-636-0296 ext. 1201.
To register, ask for ext. 1256.

Pro-Life

contact: Ed Harpring, eharpring@archlou.org

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

Nov 2 THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)

For those who have lost a loved one:
May they be comforted in praying for their loved one while trusting in the hope of eternal life;

Nov 9 FEAST OF THE LATERAN BASILICA IN ROME

For all those grieving from the loss of a child:
That they may find in our loving God strength, refuge and help in this time of distress;

Nov 16 THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For families: That they may follow Jesus' example and be witnesses of self-giving love;

Nov 23 THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

For all people: That we may act with kindness and charity towards the elderly, migrants, the poor, and the unborn;

Nov 30 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

For the shepherds of the Church:
That they may support and promote the dignity of each person as they guide all people towards Christ;

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

March for Life



March for Life
January 22, 2015
Washington DC

Contact Ed Harpring, Pro-Life Coordinator, for transportation and itinerary for youth and adults:
eharpring@archlou.org or 502-471-2154.

Helpers of God's Precious Infants Mass

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

Saturdays, November 8 & December 13

Angels in Disguise

Mark your calendars "Do You See What I See?"
Saturday, December 13, 7:00 p.m., Brown Theater

Join Archbishop Kurtz at a fabulous Christmas Concert with Collin Raye!

Through musical concerts and other events, *Angels in Disguise* celebrates individuals with Down syndrome and their unique ability to enrich our lives, inform our souls, and warm our hearts.



For tickets, call Penny at 502-526-1642.

Recipes for Family Living

SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2015

A pilgrimage to Philadelphia to attend
the 8TH WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES



An opportunity for families, couples and individuals from around the world to celebrate “being family” and to celebrate our Catholic faith tradition.

Our local preparation has begun! Look for information coming through your parish email and the Chancery mailings.

To learn more about this event visit www.worldmeeting2015.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.wme.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



FOCCUS Training - New Fall Date!

FOCCUS: One Day Training
Tuesday, November 18

Maloney Center, Louisville, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Cost: \$65; Refresher for current facilitators: \$10
(light lunch included) Deadline: November 10.

Registration is required. Contact Carolyn, 502-471-2142 or ckupper@archlou.org.

Wedding Anniversary Mass

Watch for Registration Form, Poster & Information in December 12 mailing from the Chancery.



A Mass of Thanksgiving for couples celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20 & 25 years of marriage in 2015 will be celebrated with Archbishop Kurtz at St. Raphael Parish, Saturday, **FEBRUARY 14**, 4:00 p.m.

Registration is through the parishes; deadline to Family Ministries is February 4.

Staff

Sue Brodfehrer, Executive Director
Ed Harpring, Coordinator of Pro-Life Ministries
Michelle Herberger, Coordinator of Pastoral Ministries
Carolyn Kupper, Administrative Support Staff

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Family Ministries Office, Archdiocese of Louisville
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

