



Family Life

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

September - October 2014

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

Let us join Pope Francis in remembering the current violence and disease that are affecting families in our world:

Let us pray together to the God of peace, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary: Give us peace, O Lord, in our days, and make us builders of justice and peace.

Pope Francis
August 10, 2014

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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

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from USCCB . . .



Instrumentum Laboris for Extraordinary Synod Available

The preparatory document for the extraordinary Synod of Bishops this October, *Instrumentum Laboris*, summarizes the questionnaire responses on marriage and family topics that concern the Church laity and hierarchy.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila, Philippines, is one of the three presidents appointed by the Pope to direct the daily session of the extraordinary Synod. He commented that he was shocked because across our world the teaching of our faith regarding family is not, for the most part, understood. His hope is that our Church can, with pastoral and evangelical concern, address the question, “How do we present the good news of the family to this generation, with its limitations, with its greatness, with its unique experiences?”

Instrumentum Laboris, in its entirety, can be found in Vol. 44, No. 10 of *Origins* and on the Vatican website, www.vatican.va/roman_curia/synod/documents/rc_synod_doc_20140626_instrumentum-laboris-familia_en.html. To read a two part commentary by Emily Macke on this working document: www.foryourmarriage.org/the-bishops-find-a-pulse-on-the-state-of-the-family; www.foryourmarriage.org/the-challenges-of-communicating-life-and-love/

Let us pray for Archbishop Kurtz and all those convening this October as they discuss and prepare material for the ordinary synod set for Oct. 2015 around the theme “pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelization.” May God’s Spirit enlighten their hearts and minds.

Parents, Play With Your Children

In a recent audience at the Vatican with priests and catechists from the Diocese of Rome, Pope Francis identified one of the dangers that the family faces in society: living in a hurry. This way of life, in which one does not have time to be with their family, has a profound effect on the parents, the children and even the Church.



Pope Francis
Corner

He stated: “When I hear the confession of young couples and they start talking about their children, I always ask them the same question: do you make time to play with your children? The fathers usually say: ‘But Father, when I go to work in the morning they are sleeping, and when I’m back home they’re also in bed.’ This is no way to live.”

Without this time with their parents, children grow up in many ways as orphans. He explained, “This is a society of orphans. Let’s think about this, eh? It’s important. Dad is tired, mum is tired, they go to sleep... And the children remain orphaned.”

Pope Francis proposed gratuitous love as a solution to this problem. If children know that they are loved, they will not grow up as orphans. “The gratuity of that dad or that mum who know how to spend time with their children. We need more of this gratuity in families, parishes and in society.”

In what concrete ways does your parish encourage quality parent / child time?

Marriage & Family Enrichment cont.

more from USCCB . . .



The Beatitudes, Marriage & Family

Pope Francis described the Beatitudes as a "program for holiness." This series examines how the Beatitudes can serve as a program for holiness in our marriages and families. It may be a welcome addition to your parish website. You can find the series at www.foryourmarriage.org/the-beatitudes-marriage-and-family

Advent is Just Around the Corner: Ideas for Family Celebrations

In preparation for this liturgical season, colleagues at Maloney Center shared memories, past and current, of how their families celebrated or celebrate Advent. We also sprinkled in some ideas from years past. Below are the fruits of our labors. Feel free to share these with the families in your parish.

Advent Buddies or Angels

We placed the names of our family members in a bowl and each would draw one name and do nice things for that person for that week. Each week we would redraw thus spreading the love around.

We drew for Advent angels and on the last Sunday of Advent would give our angel a special handmade gift.



Advent wreath

We have young children and so we have them make our advent wreath. A grape vine wreath forms the base. The boys go out and collect greener, etc. for decoration. Now that they are old enough, they light the candles and we pray together as a family.

When we were young we weren't always able to go to Mass as a family so, after the last one arrived home, we would light the Advent candle/s. It was like a carryover from the larger community. The candles were lit at mass and then we lit them at home.

We are now all grown adults but, to this day, anyone who can gathers at mother's home and we light the Advent candle/s and pray together as a family.

We placed a nest in the center of our Advent wreath to remind us to prepare our "heart-nest" for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. At least once a week, we shared what is in our "heart nest".

Participate in Parish activities

Our parish offers Advent activities for the children. We continue these activities at home.

Prayers and outreach

On the back of a door in our home, we form a Christmas tree with green ribbon. As the Christmas cards arrive, the children hang them inside the outlined tree. A prayer is said each day for the sender/s of the card.

As a family, one year we made small knotted prayer blankets and gave them to pregnant women in the parish or to shut-ins.

I cut out a Christmas tree and paste it on red paper. The children place either star stickers or other appropriate Christmas stickers on the tree anytime they do a good deed for another person.

Mom would put the manger crib out early. Whenever we did a good deed or saw another do a good deed for someone, we placed a piece of straw in the crib. By Christmas, the crib was prepared for Jesus.

Websites

Catholic traditions for Advent and Christmas:

www.foryourmarriage.org/celebrating-advent-as-a-family

www.catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0372.html

www.loyolapress.com/liturgical-year-advent-activities.htm

Traditions from across the US and Philippines are shared: www.catholic.org/clife/advent/content.php?s=1

Blog www.ncregister.com/blog/jennifer-fulwiler/8-super-simple-ways-to-celebrate-advent

Pro-Life

contact: Ed Harpring, eharpring@archlou.org

October 2014 - Respect Life Month - Respect Life Packets

Your Respect Life Parish packets should be arriving in September.

The Respect Life Program begins anew each year on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday in October (October 5th, 2014). The program is highlighted in liturgies and marked by special events. The USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities publishes a program packet each year to call attention to numerous human life issues. These materials are especially helpful for priests, parish groups and other organizations.

The USCCB theme this year is, **“Each of us is a masterpiece of God’s creation,”** which was developed from of a quote from Pope Francis’ Day for Life greeting: “Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

This year’s articles include adoption, miscarriage, post-abortion healing within marriage, poverty and abortion, advanced medical directives, and the increased commodification of children.

www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/

40 Days for Life Louisville Sept. 24 - Nov. 2



Pray to help mothers **“CHOOSE LIFE”**
for their unborn children.

Join hundreds of pro-life men, women and children who are peacefully and compassionately being the hands and feet of Christ at the abortion clinic. Two volunteers per hour are needed to pray daily from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. on the sidewalk in front of the EMW clinic at 138 W. Market.

Please prayerfully consider being a coordinator for your church or school and participate in this life-saving impact.

Contact Laura at la.grijalba@att.net or call 502-475-5403 for more information.

40 Days for Life is a ecumenical, community-based campaign that draws attention to the devastating effects abortion has on families. Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil and community outreach we can make a difference!

Helpers of God’s Precious Infants Mass helperslouisville.org

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

Sat., Sept 13 Fr. Gary Padgett, Dcn. Louie Dugan

Sat., Oct 11 Fr. Philip Erickson, Dcn. Ted Luckett

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

Sept 7 TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all married couples:

That they may be open to receive courage from the Lord to be open to new life;

Sept 14 FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

For those whose days on earth are drawing to a close: That they may be welcomed into the joys of eternal life in heaven;

Sept 21 TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the unborn:

May they be welcomed into the world with love, joy and the support they need to flourish;

Sept 28 TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those involved in post-abortion healing ministry: That the Father of mercy would fill them with the necessary grace and compassion to minister to those in need of healing;

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

Pro-Life cont.

Knights Reach Out to Christians in Iraq

Knights of Columbus Established Fund to Help Christians Threatened with Extinction in Iraq

The Knights of Columbus announced that it is establishing a fund to assist those – particularly Christians as well as other religious minorities – facing a horrific and violent persecution and possible extinction in Iraq and the surrounding regions.

The Knights have pledged an initial \$500,000 and will match an additional \$500,000 in donations from the public.

“The unprovoked and systematic persecution and violent elimination of Middle East Christians, as well as other minority groups, especially in Iraq, has created an enormous humanitarian crisis,” said Supreme Knight Carl Anderson. “Pope Francis has asked the world for prayers and support for those affected by this terrible persecution, and we are asking our members, and all people of good will, to pray for those persecuted and support efforts to assist them by donating to this fund.”

Anderson added: “It has shocked the conscience of the world that people are systematically being purged from the region where their families have lived for millennia – simply for their faith. It is imperative that we stand in solidarity with them in defense of the freedom of conscience, and provide them with whatever relief we can.”

Those seeking to assist with the relief efforts can donate to K of C Christian Refugee Relief by visiting www.kofc.org/Iraq or by sending checks or money orders to: K of C Christian Refugee Relief, Knights of Columbus Charities, P.O. Box 1966, New Haven, CT 06509. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Dedicated to charity, last year the Knights provided more than \$170 million and more than 70 million hours to charitable causes, assisting substantially with several humanitarian disasters from North America to Asia.

www.kofc.org/un/en/news/releases/detail/kofc-fund-help-christians-iraq.html

Resource Kit

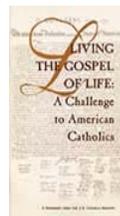
Unaccompanied Migrant Children Resource Kit

Central American children from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are migrating to the United States alone in record numbers. While not a new phenomenon, the number of children who are making the perilous journey alone has increased exponentially - on average 6,775 arrived between 2003 - 2011, and upwards of 90,000 are projected to arrive in Fiscal Year 2014.

The Catholic Church has taken seriously the humanitarian and policy oriented aspects of this situation and is advocating on behalf of increased protections for migrant children and their families who are arriving in the United States. Recent testimony by Bishop Mark Seitz provides a useful overview of the policy position taken by the bishops on this issue. Below are resources that can be used to better understand the situation, as well as some of the efforts that the Church is involved in to help resolve it.

Resources and Documents can be found at: www.usccb.org/about/migration-policy/unaccompanied-migrant-children-resource-kit.cfm

Living the Gospel of Life



In their statement *Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics*, the bishops acknowledge that bringing a respect for human dignity to practical politics is a daunting task, but ask that citizens and elected officials alike begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill, or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life, no matter how broken, unformed, disabled or desperate that life may seem.

This 15-page resource is excellent for adult faith formation during Respect Life Month (October) and during major election years as Catholics face complex decisions that require a well-formed conscience. www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/abortion/living-the-gospel-of-life.cfm

Domestic Violence

One in four women experience domestic violence in their lifetime, & three in four Americans are reported to know a victim.

For more information on domestic violence or to share this information in your parish, check out the Bulletin Insert version of the Life Matters pamphlet: www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2013/upload/2013-Life-Matters-Domestic-Violence-secured.pdf

Pastoral Care

contact: Michelle Herberger, mherberger@archlou.org

Divorce Support Opportunities at St. Margaret Mary



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.

Opening Session:
Saturday, August 30, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Weekly Sessions:
Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Sept. 4 – Nov. 13

Donation: \$15 for workbook

DivorceCare for Kids, DC4K, provides a safe, fun place where children will learn to understand their feelings, express their emotions appropriately, feel better about themselves and develop coping skills.

Opening Session:
Saturday, August 30, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Weekly Sessions:
Thursdays, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Sept. 4 – Nov. 13

Donation: \$15 for workbook

RSVP for DivorceCare and/or DC4K appreciated, contact Denise Ruiz at 502-426-1588, ext. 126 or druiz@stmm.org

The Blessing of a Long Life

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. (Eccl 3:1)

On September 28, Pope Francis will meet elderly people and grandparents in St. Peter's Square during the first international day dedicated to old age. The encounter coincides with the Day of Prayer for the Synod on the family. It is inspired by the Pontiff's many references to the situation experienced by the elderly and his frequent comments on the tragedy of the throwaway culture typical of a "population that does not care for its elderly."



As suggested in the Archdiocesan "New Evangelization Suggestions for Fall," a blessing at that weekend liturgies would be a good way to recognize and pray for the wisdom figures in your parish community.

In 1999, the U.S. Bishops released the pastoral message, *Blessings of Age, Growing Older within the Faith Community*. Now 15 years old, it remains an excellent resource to use for reflection, discussion and action in ministering to the elderly, not only in our parish, but also in our broader community.

The purposes of this pastoral were threefold:

- To affirm and challenge older people, acknowledging both the blessings and the losses of later life and recognizing that interdependence, not independence, is the true gospel value
- To form a fresh perspective, one that sees older persons as active participants in contributing to the Church's life and mission and in meeting the spiritual needs of its members
- To develop structures, especially in parishes, that encourage and facilitate the contributions of older people

The entire text is available at: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/blessings-of-age-english.cfm
If you would like resources that address the spiritual journey of ageing, contact Michelle.

Recipes for Family Living

Grief & Divorce

St. Margaret Mary
For additional information contact
Denise Ruiz, 502-426-1588, ext 126

Grief & Grace

Group 1: Sundays, Sept. 14 - Nov. 2, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Teacher's Lunchroom

Group 2: Mondays, Sept. 15 - Nov. 3, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Room C

DivorceCare . . for adults & children, see page 5

Anniversary Mass

Watch for Registration Form, Poster & Information in
September 5th mailing from the Chancery.



A Mass of Thanksgiving for couples celebrating 30, 40, 50, 60 & 60 plus years of marriage in 2014 will be celebrated with Archbishop Kurtz at the Cathedral of the Assumption, Sunday, **NOVEMBER 2**, 2:00 p.m.

Registration is through the parishes; deadline to Family Ministries is October 21.

"Preparing for Marriage" Materials

If your parish is in need of *Preparing for Marriage* Booklets and/or Brochures in English or Spanish, contact Carolyn 502-471-2142 or email ckupper@archlou.org

Watch for mailing from the Chancery containing the 2015 Engaged Encounter & Foundation for Marriage insert

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.wvme.org



Retrouvaille - a ministry for hurting marriages

This ministry provides a weekend retreat experience plus six post sessions. Next Louisville area weekend - Sept. 19-21

To learn more, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org



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

Marriage Preparation Trainings

Registration required. For more information call: Carolyn Kupper, 502-471-2142, ckupper@archlou.org

Sponsor Couple: Three Evening Training- Tuesdays, September 16, 23, 30, Maloney Center, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Cost: \$30 per couple. Registration Deadline: September 9

FOCCUS: One Day Training - Saturday, October 4, Maloney Center, Louisville, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Cost: \$65; Refresher for current facilitators: \$10 (*light lunch included*) Deadline: September 26.

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We invite your comments & suggestions. Contact:
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Counseling Services - 502-636-1044; counseling@archlou.org

