



April 2017

Full of great content written by the Family Ministries team, the *Family Life Newsletter* is a source for information, resources and faith-based discussions about all manner of issues affecting families today.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Marriage & Family Enrichment	1-2
Counseling Services	2
Pro-Life	3
Pastoral Care	4
Up & Coming	5
Staff	5

All material in newsletter may be reproduced.

"The most beautiful thing that God made, the Bible says, was the family. . . . And a family is truly a family when it is able to open its arms and receive all of God's love."



Pope Francis
World Meeting of Families
September 27, 2015

Marriage & Family Enrichment

contact: Deacon Stephen Bowling, sbowling@archlou.org

Alleviating that Sense of Dread . . .



APRIL IS NATIONAL
**CHILD ABUSE
PREVENTION MONTH**

As our Lenten observance this year comes to a close, I cannot help but feel a sense of trepidation. I know the stories we will relive in the coming days. The Passion itself looms large in my mind and I cannot help but face it like Jesus surely did . . . with a sense of profound sorrow and dread.

We often carry forward our attitudes from childhood and this time of the year is no different. Christmas for me was always a time of joy and anticipation . . . whereas Good Friday always seemed to be a scary but necessary moment which mentally stood in the way of my properly remembering the Easter miracle.

I now know better of course . . . but that feeling of dread still persists in me for some reason. And in feeling that dread in myself, I cannot help but think about those who may live with feelings like that all the time . . .

April is [National Child Abuse Prevention month](#). It is a time for us to make a real and concentrated effort to try and take away those feelings of dread in a young person's life. Something as simple as wearing the blue ribbon really does make a difference in calling attention to the fact that we as a society will not tolerate abuse of one another by anyone for any reason . . . most especially the smallest and most vulnerable among us.

[More than five children die every day](#) in this country as a result of child abuse and neglect, and up to [15 million children](#) witness domestic violence in their homes each year. The numbers are indeed staggering . . . but there is hope.

[Prevention is, of course, key](#). Just a few of the ways to combat child abuse in our local parishes and communities are to:

- Develop family strengthening programs and initiatives that provide families with better access to existing services & resources to help support positive family interactions
- Create and fund widespread awareness campaigns providing info on how and where to report suspected child abuse and neglect
- Provide a support system of role models for new parents

These are just a few of the ways to make a difference and the Family Ministries Office is available to assist parishes in providing help to those in need in this area.

For more information about what all of us can do to help [prevent child abuse and neglect](#) in our own communities, check out www.childwelfare.gov or download their Prevention Resource Guide [HERE](#).

Marriage & Family Enrichment cont.

New "Joined By Grace" Companioning Couple Program



Designed especially for millennials, and utilizing the sacraments as its foundation, the ["Joined by Grace"](#) program is one of the newest and most effective programs for parish-based marriage preparation and early married life accompaniment.

[Endorsed nationally by Archbishop Kurtz](#), this new in depth "Companion Couple" program is now available as a new and improved version of the current "Sponsor Couple" program now in place in many parishes, or as a new "accompaniment" centered option for parishes that have not yet taken advantage of the benefits such a program provides. Contact [Deacon Stephen Bowling](#) for more information or to schedule a one-day training for married couples in your parish or region.

Counseling Services

contact: Martine Bacci Siegel, msiegel@archlou.org

Report Child Abuse

April is National Child Abuse Prevention month. Child abuse and neglect are significant public health problems in the United States and Kentucky is a mandatory reporting state.

- According to child protective service agencies, about 702,000 children were substantiated victims of child abuse or neglect in 2014.
- Self-reported data consistently show that more than 1 in 10 children and youth experienced at least one form of child abuse or neglect in the past year.
- More than 1,500 children died in the United States in 2014 from abuse and neglect.
- The financial costs for victims and society are substantial.

A CDC study showed that the total lifetime estimated financial cost associated with just one year of confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect is \$124 billion.



What should you do if you suspect that a child has been abused? It's normal to feel a little overwhelmed and confused in this situation. Child abuse is a difficult subject that can be hard to accept and even harder to talk about.

Just remember, you can make a tremendous difference in the life of an abused child, especially if you take steps to stop the abuse early. When talking with an abused child, the best thing you can provide is calm reassurance and unconditional support. Let your actions speak for you if you're having trouble finding the words. Remember that talking about the abuse may be very difficult for the child. It's your job to reassure the child and provide whatever help you can.

If you believe a child is being abused, neglected or is dependent, remember Kentucky is a mandatory reporting state. Call the Child Protection Hotline number below or the Protection and Permanency office in your county.

Child Protection Hot Line: 1-877-KYSAFE1 or 1-877-597-2331 (Toll Free)

The online [Kentucky Child/Adult Protective Services Reporting System](#) is available for professionals to report non-emergency situations that do not require an immediate response from our staff. The website is monitored from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (Eastern Time), Monday through Friday. Reports will not be reviewed during evenings, weekends or state holidays.

"The Joy of Children Makes Their Parents' Hearts Leap"

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Pope Francis has stated that child abuse is a "tragedy." "We must not tolerate child abuse!" and "We must defend children."

In the United States, alone, 2.9 million cases of child abuse are reported every year, and more than 4 children die from child abuse and neglect on a daily basis. Over 70% of these children are below the age of 3. The statistics are gut-wrenching and a clarion call to action for all of us. We can take steps to educate ourselves but the most important factors are to:

- **Know the signs.** Unexplained injuries aren't the only signs of abuse. Depression, fear of a certain adult, difficulty trusting others or making friends, sudden changes in eating or sleeping patterns, inappropriate sexual behavior, poor hygiene, secrecy, and hostility are often signs of family problems and may indicate a child is being neglected or physically, sexually, or emotionally abused.
- **Report abuse.** If you witness a child being harmed or see evidence of abuse, make a report to your state's child protective services department or local police. When talking to a child about abuse, listen carefully, assure the child that he or she did the right thing by telling an adult, and affirm that he or she is not responsible for what happened.

Sadly, our "throwaway culture" as Pope Francis tells us, diminishes the dignity of human life:

Human life is sacred and inviolable. Every civil right is based on the recognition of the first, fundamental right, the right to life, which is not subject to any condition, of a qualitative, economic and certainly not of an ideological nature. Just as the commandment "Thou shalt not kill" places a clear limit guaranteeing the value of human life, today we must also say "No to an economy of exclusion and inequality." This economy kills. Human beings are themselves considered consumer goods to be used and then discarded. We have created a "throwaway" culture which is now spreading. In this way life too is discarded.

Child abuse has dramatically increased in direct correspondence to the legalization of abortion. Paradoxically, we were told by abortion proponents that legal abortion would not only reduce the number of abortions, but related social issues, such as child abuse, would be significantly reduced as well. On the contrary, 44 years later we know the true and grim facts of abortion and child abuse. More than [58 MILLION](#) babies have been aborted since the Roe v. Wade decision and child abuse [has increased more than 1,000 percent](#) since the legalization of abortion in 1973.

These statistics clearly fly in the face of the abortion proponents' argument that having children who are not wanted leads to greater instances of child abuse.

Recent studies suggest that strong traditional marriages and families are the best protection against child abuse.

The safest family environment for a child is a home in which the biological parents are married. Contrary to current theory about the effects of marriage on children, recent research demonstrates that marriage provides a safe environment for all family members, one in which child abuse and fatality are lowered dramatically. <http://www.heritage.org/marriage-and-family/report/the-child-abuse-crisis-the-disintegration-marriage-family-and-the#8>

Again, Pope Francis points this out:

The joy of children makes their parents' hearts leap and opens up the future. Children are the joy of the family and of society. They are not matter of reproductive biology, or one of the many ways of producing them, much less their parents' possession. Children are a gift. They are a gift. Each one is unique and unrepeatable, and at the same time unmistakably linked to his or her roots. Indeed, to be a son or a daughter according to God's plan, means carrying in oneself the memory and hope of a love that has become tangible by kindling the life of another human being, original and new.

Indeed, children are a gift, and to prevent child abuse, we must defend, protect and promote strong marriages, families and a culture that values the gift of life.



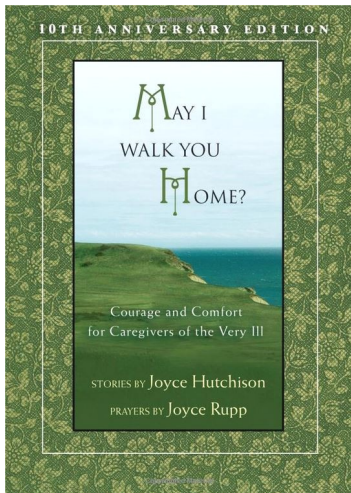
Pastoral Care

contact: Michelle Herberger, mherberger@archlou.org

God's Abiding Presence

Caring for a loved one who has a debilitating illness or who is dying is not something we often prepare ourselves to do. Yet, life has a way of bringing us the challenges we least expected. Even if we have accepted that challenge and are giving care to a loved one, that doesn't make it any easier. The need for self-care remains.

The basics of self-care are essential and include diet, exercise, and rest. However, many caregivers would speak to the struggle to get those needs met. Because of this, I want to focus on comfort and encouragement to those who walk with and care for loved ones who are sick and/or dying.



When one is debilitated by illness or dying, that person is most often truly authentic. Those things that were seen as important before the illness fall away. Joyce Hutchison in her book May I Walk You Home?, writes "I believe when we are dying is the only time in our lives when we are bare bones real people. It is the only time in our lives when there is no need for masks, no one to fool or compete with, no need for greed or jealousy." What can feel burdensome is also a privilege.

Hutchison likens the one who journeys with the dying as that of midwife. She says it's much like being in the delivery room and participating in the birthing process, a process filled with wonder and awe. The difference is that the caregiver is actually helping to birth the dying into eternal life. It's in that place as caregivers, that again the wonder and awe of "birthing" can be experienced.

Pain is a part of all birthing, be it into this life or eternal life. However, the pain is not for naught. Through that pain, people often struggle to make peace with their illness or dying process. As a care-giver who accompanies the sick and dying, there is an opportunity to experience God's constant presence in the journey.

In order to receive the gift of the journey, it's important to spend time in prayer and reflection. Joyce Rupp wrote short meditations and prayers to go with the stories of care shared by Joyce Hutchison in her book. Since the stories, meditations and prayers are brief, this book can be especially helpful for the "way-too-busy" caregiver.

Pastoral Care to the Sick & Dying and Befriender Hospital Ministry Training

This combined training is open to all, but it is especially beneficial to deacons, wives of deacons, pastoral associates, those involved in parish ministry to the sick and homebound, as well as, individuals who want to be part of a hospital team which visits Catholic patients. The training will begin on June 10.

A total of 10 sessions will offer the education, formation, and skills needed for those who minister to the sick and dying in hospitals, nursing homes, or homebound. Through an understanding of family systems, pastoral communication, grief, and cultural and racial diversity, participants will be better prepared to respond to the needs of the suffering.



For additional questions or to register contact Michelle, 502-636-0296, ext. 1201.

Up & Coming

Financial Help for Newly Married

The Family Ministries Office is proud to announce the first of its many upcoming programs designed to assist and accompany couples in the critical first few years of marriage!

Come and spend two intensive and personalized days with **certified financial planner Jerry Zimmerer** from **D. Scott Neal, Inc.** as we dive deeply into proven financial practices and planning and explore how such critical tools and techniques can support, enrich and strengthen Catholic marriages!

Building Your Financial Foundation

For Newly Married Couples



The Saturday sessions will be held at **St Gabriel Parish, 5505 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY, 40291** in Loft 1 on **both May 13 and June 3** from **8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.**

The cost for attending this two day workshop is at the **SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE of \$110 per couple.**
Visit: <http://bit.ly/2ouvYsQ> to register.

Helpers of God's Precious Infants



7:00 a.m. - Mass at Cathedral of the Assumption followed by procession to local abortion facility.

9:00 a.m. - Benediction at Cathedral

Saturday, Apr 8 - Fr. Bill Ernst

Visit: HelpersLouisville.org

Safe Environment Training

Mon, Apr 17 6:30 p.m. St. Athanasius

Wed, Apr 19 9:30 a.m. Holy Trinity, Prospect

Thu, Apr 20 6:30 p.m. St. Joseph Bardstown

Mon, Apr 24 6:30 p.m. Our Lady of Lourdes



Retrouvaille (French for rediscovery)

This ministry is designed to help couples in troubled marriages to heal and renew.

Owensboro weekend - Aug. 18 - 20

To learn more, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org



Marriage Encounter

A weekend retreat for married couples who desire time away to enrich their marriage.

Indianapolis area weekend - Apr. 28 - 30

To learn more, visit www.wmme.org



Staff

Deacon Stephen Bowling, Director
Michelle Herberger, Associate Director
Ed Harpring, Coordinator of Pro-Life Ministries
Carolyn Kupper, Administrative Support Staff

Martine Bacci Siegel, Director of Counseling Services,
Victim Assistance Coordinator
Scott Fitzgerald, Administrative Support Staff,
Safe Environment Coordinator

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



<http://archloufamilyministries.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseLouisvilleFamilyMinistries>



@Archloufamily