

July - August 2015

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

We must regain the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world, and that being good and decent are worth it.



Pope Francis

On Care for Our Common Home (Laudato Si), #229

To read the new encyclical from Pope Francis addressed to "every person living on this planet" and for parish resources, visit USCCB.org

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If you would like an electronic copy of this newsletter to come directly to you, send your email address to family@archlou.org.

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

contact: Sue Brodfehrer, sbrodfehrer@archlou.org

From the Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

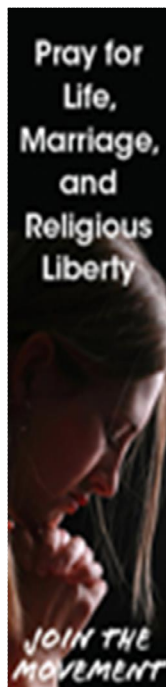
- Resources to assist in preparation for the Supreme Court's decision on the marriage cases (expected by end of June) can be found at USCCB.org. Enter Promotion and Defense of Marriage in the search engine. Here you will find:
 - a prayer for marriage
 - a Supreme Court bulletin insert
 - marriage redefinition lead messages
 - backgrounder on Supreme Court marriage cases
 - catechetical resources
- A new website of U.S. Bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development. This site equips us to live out Pope Francis's call to "go forth" on mission. It also seeks to help our Catholic communities carry out the vision of the U.S. bishops' landmark document, *Communities of Salt & Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish*. The website includes:
 - more than 50 [inspiring stories](#) of real Catholic communities being Salt & Light
 - over 100 [resources](#) on praying, reaching out, learning and acting together
 - [assessment tools](#) to find ways to grow as faith-filled disciples
 - a one minute [introductory video](#)

Visit WeAreSaltAndLight.org today!

HOW IS YOUR PARISH RESPONDING TO THE CALL?

Five Ways to Participate:

1. Host or attend a Eucharistic Holy Hour on the last Sunday of each month.
Visit: www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/holy-hour-for-life-marriage-and-religious-liberty.cfm. A printable version is available at site.
2. Pray a daily Rosary.
Visit: www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/rosaries/how-to-pray-the-rosary.cfm.
3. Say the Prayers of the Faithful at daily and Sunday Masses.
Visit: origin.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/call-to-prayer/upload/Prayers-of-the-Faithful-Life-Liberty-Marriage-2.pdf
4. Abstain from meat on Fridays and fast on Fridays.
Visit: origin.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/year-of-faith/upload/Call-to-Prayer-Fasting-Pledge-Card-2.pdf
5. Participate in the Fortnight for Freedom. Parishes received detailed information regarding this event from the Chancery by mail and email.



Marriage & Family Enrichment cont.

Pope Francis on Family Life: "Please, Thank you, Forgive Me"

Pope Francis's reflection on the life of the family focused on "three simple words": may I, thank you, and forgive me. The pope said, "They are simple words, but not so simple to put into practice. They enclose a great strength: the strength to take care of the home, including through thousands of difficulties and trials. However, its absence opens cracks that can even make it collapse." Daily acts of love and humility are what build up a marriage (and family) through time.

To read more, visit the Pope Francis Corner - www.foryourmarriage.org.

Two Churches, One Marriage – Resources

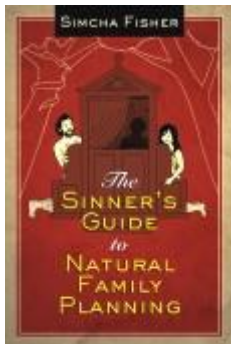
Consider including these resources on your parish website.

- USCCB - For Your Marriage: www.foryourmarriage.org
- Interchurch Families: Bringing our Churches to Unity Through Love: www.interchurchfamilies.org
- American Association of Interchurch families: americanassociationofinterchurchfamilies.wordpress.com
- Dovetail Institute for Interfaith Family Resources: www.bardstown.com/~di-ifr



NFP Book Review

Since NFP education week is coming up in July, we offer a resource that may be a helpful inclusion to your parish library and/or a useful recommendation to married parishioners. For further resources on NFP education week, see page 3.



The Sinner's Guide to Natural Family Planning

By Simcha Fisher; Reviewed by Caitlin Dwyer

"Are you committed to natural family planning (NFP) but struggling to practice it? Are you frustrated with the charting or the periods of abstinence when trying to avoid pregnancy? Are you and your spouse agitated with the system or with each other? Do you feel guilty about your feelings and struggles?..."

In *The Sinner's Guide to Natural Family Planning*, popular blogger, wife and mother Simcha Fisher throws a lifeline to married couples struggling with NFP, particularly Catholics. She lets couples know first and foremost that they are not alone, and she gives them permission to relax and even laugh at themselves as they work out the worthy task of learning the art of NFP in marriage. Thoroughly rooted in Catholic theology, Fisher's book gives a profound, frank, and at times hilarious analysis of the challenges facing married people using NFP, as well as soul-soothing encouragement and advice...."

Caitlin Dwyer's full review of this book can be found at www.foryourmarriage.org. She is a freelance writer and editor as well as an adjunct professor at Thomas More College in Crestview Hills, KY. Caitlin holds a Masters in Theological Studies from the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family. She also teaches Natural Family Planning in her local area.

A Resource for Parents

Peanut butter & grace is a Catholic micro-publishing operation providing entry-level resources for home-based family faith formation. Their primary audience consists of parents who would like to do more to help their kids grow in faith, but don't know where to begin.

To learn more about this resource and to subscribe to weekly, Friday emails, visit pbgrace.com.

Have a parish website? How about adding this site.

peanut butter
& **grace**

Pro-Life

contact: Ed Harpring, eharpring@archlou.org



National NFP Awareness Week - JULY 19 - JULY 25

2015 theme: All Natural!

Natural Family Planning

Good for the body. Great for the soul!

"Celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality."

Discover Natural Family Planning

Available at nfp@uscpcb.org;

- Current Poster
- Poster Archives
- Liturgy & Prayers
- Articles
- Couples' Stories
- Church Teachings
- Media Kit ("NFP Graphics" included here)

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

July 5 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those who have participated in abortion and long for reconciliation with God:

May they find healing and peace through the Sacrament of Reconciliation;

July 12 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For couples considering adoption:

May the Lord guide their journey and grant them peace along the way;

July 19 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all shepherds of the Church:

May they witness with their lives to the incredible worth of every person;

July 26 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For those in difficult financial circumstances and expecting a child:

May the Lord grant them assurance of his care and provide for their needs;

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

Prayer to End the Death Penalty

Merciful Father,

We ask your blessing on all we do to build a culture of life. Hear our prayers for those impacted by the death penalty.

We pray for all people, that their lives and dignity as children of a loving God may be respected and protected in all stages and circumstances.

We pray for victims of violence and their families, that they may experience our love and support and find comfort in your compassion and in the promise of eternal life.

We pray for those on death row, that their lives may be spared, that the innocent may be freed and that the guilty may come to acknowledge their faults and seek reconciliation with you.

We pray for the families of those who are facing execution that they may be comforted by your love and compassion.

We pray for civic leaders, that they may commit themselves to respecting every human life and ending the use of the death penalty in our land.

Compassionate Father, give us wisdom and hearts filled with your love. Guide us as we work to end the use of the death penalty and to build a society that truly chooses life in all situations. We ask this Father, through your Son Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Helpers of God's Precious Infants Mass

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

Saturdays, July 11 Fr. Terry Bradshaw

August 8 TBA

Visit: HelpersLouisville.org

The link to this prayer is on the USCCB website: uscpcb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers/prayer-to-end-the-use-of-the-death-penalty.cfm

The reverse side of this prayer has scripture readings, information on Catholic teaching, and some facts and resources.

Email ckupper@archlou.org for a PDF file which can be reproduced for your parish.

Counseling Services

contact: *Martine Bacci Siegel, msiegel@archlou.org*

Pope Francis - Coaches, be an Example of Integrity

Vatican City, 15 May 2015 – Pope Francis sent a message to Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, for the international study seminar on the theme “Coaches: Educating People.”

“We all, in life, need educators: mature, wise and balanced people who help us to grow in the family, in study, in work, in faith,” writes the Holy Father. “The presence of a good coach-educator is shown to be providential especially during the years of adolescence and early youth, when the personality is developing and in search of role models to refer to and identify with. ... In this delicate phase of life, a coach bears a great responsibility: he often has the privilege of spending many hours each week with the young and of having a great influence on them in terms of their behavior and personality. ... How important it is, then, that a coach be an example of integrity, coherence, good judgment, impartiality, and also joy, patience, and the capacity for appreciation and benevolence towards all, and especially the most disadvantaged!”

“And how important it is for him to offer an example of faith!” he adds. “Faith always helps us to raise our gaze towards God, and not to treat any of our activities as absolute, including sport ... as well as to maintain the just distance and wisdom to put into perspective both our defeats and our victories. Faith gives us this outlook of goodness towards others which helps us overcome the temptation of excessive rivalry and aggression, which enables us to understand the dignity of each person, including those who are less gifted or privileged. The coach, in this respect, may make a very valuable contribution to creating a climate of solidarity and inclusion in relation to marginalized young people or those at risk socially, finding suitable ways and methods to involve them in sport and in the experience of socialization. A coach with human and spiritual balance will also know how to preserve the authentic values of sport and its fundamental nature as a game and social activity, ensuring that it does not become distorted under the pressure of many interests, especially those of an economic nature, which are increasingly evident nowadays.”



Pastoral Care

contact: *Michelle Herberger, mherberger@archlou.org*

Befriender Hospital Teams

Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you? And the king will say to them in reply, Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me. (Matt. 25:37-40)

Recently, a group of laity who are team members of various hospital visitation teams, came together to pray and share their experience of visiting the sick. One member brought a particular experience whereby she wondered if the visit “mattered” or if she should have skipped visiting that particular patient. She had visited an elderly patient with advanced dementia. The patient was agitated and incoherent, all the while pulling on her hospital gown and wringing her hands. The team member took the patient’s hands and gently pulled her gown down and straightened her covers. She held the woman’s hands for a moment, before releasing them to make the sign of the cross and offering a familiar prayer. The patient couldn’t respond and the visitor eventually left. She said to me, “I wanted to help her feel more comfortable, but perhaps I should have left the room and prayed for her privately.” That’s when the words of Matthew’s gospel came to mind, and together we reflected on how God often witnesses His love for us through the loving care of those around us. Truly, on that day, that team member was the hands and feet of Jesus.

In August another training will begin for those interested in becoming a team member at one of our area hospitals. If you feel called to explore this ministry, you are invited to attend a 10:00 a.m. information session at Maloney Center on either June 24, July 1, 8, or 15. Call 502-636-0296, ext. 1256 to register.

Transition - There is a Time for Everything



Time has a way of passing way too quickly. 47 years ago, I entered active ministry and in the blink of an eye, I am retiring, or rather, “redesigning my life” at the end of July. My life has been both blessed and challenged by so many along the way.

Although my life path is changing, our ministry to marriage and family life continues. As ministers, may you be patient and compassionate toward all families. In their grief, may you lift them up. In their celebrations and struggles, may you be with them. May you continue to help all families realize and claim that, even in their messiness, they are holy and that God’s grace is at work in and through them.

My prayer for all of us, is that we remember that our life work is being a disciple, a student of Jesus Christ, and that there is no retiring from discipleship - only redesigning.

With a full and grateful heart, I wish you peace along your journey. Sue

Recipes for Family Living

Marriage Enrichment

Marriage Encounter

A weekend retreat for married couples who desire time away to enrich their marriage. Next Louisville area weekend - Sept. 26-27
To learn more, visit www.wwme.org



Retrouvaille

This ministry provides a weekend retreat experience plus six post sessions. Next Louisville area weekend - Sept. 18-20.

To learn more, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org



Trainings

Fall 2015—Marriage Preparation Trainings

FOCCUS Training

One Day - Saturday, October 17
Maloney Center, Louisville, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
*Cost: \$65 couple or individual; (Light lunch included)
Registration Deadline: October 9

Sponsor Couple

One Day - Saturday, Date to be determined
Maloney Center, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm.
Watch www.archlou.org/family under trainings for date; info will also be emailed to parish coordinators.

To register for either training, contact Carolyn at 502-471-2142 or ckupper@archlou.org

Staff

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

Martine Bacci Siegel, Director of Counseling Services,
Victim Assistance Coordinator
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Safe Environment Coordinator

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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

