

September - October 2015

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

"We are called to acknowledge how beautiful, true and good it is to start a family, to be a family today... We are called to make known God's magnificent plan for the family...as we accompany them amidst so many difficulties."



Pope Francis
February 20, 2014

Marriage & Family Enrichment

contact: Deacon Stephen Bowling, sbowling@archlou.org

World Meeting of Families Congress - Philadelphia Sept. 22-25, 2015



During the third week in September this year . . . something amazing is going to take place.

This year, in Philadelphia, just prior to Pope Francis' arrival in the United States, people from all over the world will gather to discuss, explore and learn . . . as well as celebrate and proclaim . . . the Church's teachings concerning marriage, the family, and God's special plan for humanity as wonderfully expressed in them both.

While not everyone is able to go to Philadelphia, the foundational catechetical document that is being used for the event is available for everyone right now: "Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive" which is available in English & Spanish through Our Sunday Visitor in paperback format: www.osv.com.

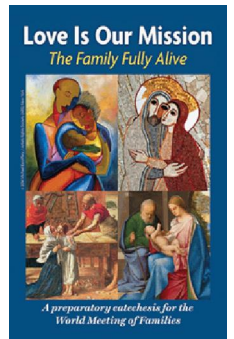
It is also available through Amazon in both paperback and Kindle eBook formats.

This 128 page document is intended to serve as a means of helping "better center ourselves and our discussions upon the family, the 'domestic church,' its centrality in God's divine plan for us, and how it is to help us all become who God created us to be."

This document is intended to facilitate an easy exploration of Catholic teaching on marriage, family, sexuality, children, human dignity, and the sanctity of life. "It's a guided tour through scripture and 2000 years of Church teaching where the reader is awakened to the relationship God wants to have with us, the family, and ultimately the world."

Written in easy-to-understand language, this document lays out the complexities of God's plan in a comprehensive and truly beautiful manner, so as to promote the Church's teaching in a positive, joy-filled way, always remembering that the Gospel of Christ is indeed, first and foremost, 'good news.'

As Pope Francis has said, we must, "keep before us the beauty of the family and marriage, the greatness of this human reality which is so simple and yet so rich..."



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Marriage & Family Enrichment	1-2
Counseling Services	2
Pastoral Care	3
Pro-Life	4
Recipes for Family Living . . .	5
Staff	5

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 cont.

Prayer: The Best Preparation for the Synod - October 4 - 25, 2015

Fresh on the heels of his visit to the United States in September, and marking its 50th anniversary, Pope Francis will soon lead the next Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, this time concentrating on "topics related to the family and evangelization."

The Synod will take place in Rome in October and Archbishop Kurtz has been named as one of the delegates from the United States. The theme for this synod is to be "the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world." With this in mind, the bishops shall gather to discuss the many issues related to the family that are facing the Church today, with the mind to "formulate appropriate pastoral guidelines" to address them.

With such a great task on the horizon, and with the commensurate need for wisdom and divine guidance so critical, one of the most effective ways we all have of assisting in the necessary work of the Synod is with the simple power of our prayers . . . as Pope Francis himself has requested of all of us.



In a letter to all families in 2013, Pope Francis invited everyone to pray for the Synod of Bishops, as well as for the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia . . . saying: "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."

Pope Francis provided the accompanying prayer to the Holy Family for the success of the Synod . . . and it is to them we all appeal for the fruitfulness of this important gathering:

Prayer to the Holy Family

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendor of true love,
to you we turn with trust.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel
and small domestic Churches.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again
experience violence, rejection and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.*

*Holy Family of Nazareth,
may the approaching Synod of Bishops
make us once more mindful of the
sacredness and inviolability of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.*

*Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.*

Counseling Services

contact: Martine Bacci Siegel, msiegel@archlou.org

The New School Year



As kids return back to school much will be said about homework, sports and of course the new teacher. Many times its the parent/teacher relationship that is overlooked. In today's world of modern technology it's easy to take for granted the speed and ease of email and texting. Lost in both are emotions that aren't conveyed in a text or email. For some, they may not have access to round the clock communication tools to talk with a teacher.

Counseling Services cont.

As the year begins, here are some helpful tips for parents when working with their child's teacher. Develop a relationship with the teacher before you need to communicate with them. This will help ensure everyone has a clear understanding of each other from the start. As part of this process it might also be a good idea to ensure the teacher has a parent's cell phone number and email with the assurance that the teacher can contact them whenever appropriate. Don't always take the student's word for what happened or why. Sometimes the child's version of what happened doesn't tell the whole story and always discuss your concerns with your child's teacher before going to the administration. Often, by talking to the teacher first, a parent will have a different understanding of what happened and together can remedy the situation with the teacher.

Parents should get involved in activities where they interact with the teachers, such as class parties, field trips, etc. It's a great way to get to know them and informal communication is often the best communication. Stay up with your children by checking grades and homework routinely. The more importance a parent puts on work, the more importance a student will put on their work. Many times parents can check a teacher's electronic bulletin board for homework, grades and email addresses of the teacher. If a parent doesn't have the electronic means at home to check in, a local library computer is always a good alternative. In the event a relationship cannot be established between the parent and teacher, finding a point of contact in the school the parent feels comfortable with (such as the school counselor) is key.

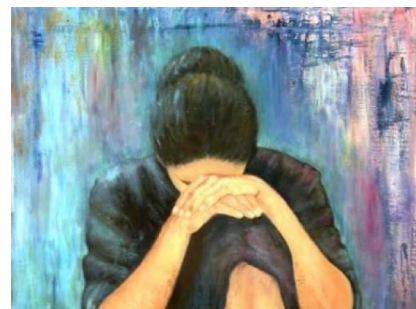
Most importantly parents should not wait to hear from their child's teacher to learn how they are doing. If you haven't received an update, reach out to that teacher. Teachers can tell which students' parents are involved. Research indicates there are fewer discipline problems and higher aspirations among students with involved parents.

Pastoral Care

contact: Michelle Herberger, mherberger@archlou.org

Current statistics state that one in three women in the U.S. will have an abortion by age 45. With that in mind, we can safely assume that there are members of our parishes who hold this secret, and who are in need of healing.

Those who have experienced abortion often develop several coping mechanisms. Consequently, it often takes years before a woman can begin to deal with her abortion. As stated in Project Rachel, they can *rationalize* their decision by telling themselves the baby is better off. Often, they can *repress* their feelings by saying that although it was a difficult decision and it hurt at the time, they did just fine and given the same circumstances, they would do it again. This repression can be great enough to even block the memory of later abortions. Occasionally, they will attempt to *compensate* for their abortion by being overly involved in church activities, working in the pro-life movement, becoming a "super mom" or other high achievement activities. Some who are vocal in the pro-choice movement are actually *reacting* to their own feeling of pain regarding their abortion. It is as if by frequently expressing contrary feelings and thoughts, one can begin to believe it.



There are several possibilities for those who have had an abortion to experience healing, forgiveness, and hope. The archdiocese offers Project Rachel, a confidential, one-to-one ministry, whereby the individual meets with someone who will walk with them through some steps toward healing. If desired, Project Rachael includes the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the Catholic who wishes to receive it.

The archdiocese can also refer to neighboring dioceses in Kentucky for a weekend retreat experience, Rachel's Vineyard. Little Way Pregnancy Resource Center has recently begun offering a scripture study, "Forgiven and Set Free" which is a ten week, small group process for women. Although the program is not specifically Catholic, the group will be facilitated by Catholic women who have been trained and volunteer at the Center. Together, these ministries become part of a "menu" of healing ministries available to those who have experienced abortion.

To speak to someone confidentially about an abortion and to discern a healing option, please call: 502-471-2155 or email: ProjectRachel@archlou.org

Pro-Life

contact: Ed Harpring, eharpring@archlou.org

EVERY LIFE IS WORTH LIVING



Respect Life Month - OCTOBER 2015

Respect Life Packets should be arriving at parishes in September.

The Respect Life Program begins anew each year on Respect Life Sunday, the first Sunday in October. 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 has chosen “**Every Life is Worth Living**” as its theme for the 2015-16 Respect Life Program. Materials will be made available at www.usccb.org/respectlife.

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 6 TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For the most vulnerable among us: May the Lord protect their lives and bring healing to hearts wounded by disregard and disrespect;

Sept 13 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all people: May the Lord motivate and inspire our actions, that we might contribute to building up a culture that cherishes each person's life;

Sept 20 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For all those whose lives are in danger: May God uphold their lives and continue to keep and protect them;

Sept 27 TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

For our president and political leaders: That they may use their influence to protect religious freedom and those who are most vulnerable in our country;

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

Pro-Life Events



October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

For information visit: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/marriage/domestic-violence/

Kentucky Right to Life – Walk for Life

Saturday, September 19, 2015, 9:00 a.m. registration
10:00 a.m. walk begins from Trinity High School



40 Days for Life

2015 Fall Campaign - September 23 - November 1

Focusing on Prayer – Fasting – Community Outreach/
Public Witness to end abortion and to pray for those
wounded by abortion.

The faithful of the Archdioceses of Louisville are encouraged to participate in the national campaign of prayer – fasting – peaceful vigil.

For more information visit: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/louisville/>

Helpers of God's Precious Infants

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

Saturdays, September 12 Fr. Deljo Puthoor
October 10 TBA

Visit: HelpersLouisville.org



Little Way Pregnancy Help Center Banquet

Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 p.m. at Crowne Plaza
Call (502) 583-2151 to reserve a seat.

Transition - "Just a Servant in the Vineyard of the Lord"



When Pope Benedict was elected in April of 2005, one of the things I will never forget is how he described himself to the world at that time . . . "a humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord."

Even though my ordination was still a little over three years away at the time, I knew as soon as I heard those words it was THAT which I wanted to be also. I believed then, as well as now, that if I could just be THAT, then anything else in life I might ever be . . . husband, father, friend or steward . . . would all be fully realized through being that first.

Now seven years after my ordination in 2008 and with well over 20 years serving others in the business world, and as a life-long Catholic son of this Archdiocese . . . a new chapter of trying to be THAT begins.

I ask for your prayers for me and my family – my wife Susan (of 25 years) as well as our children Carolyne (23), Emily (21) and Thomas (14, who is beginning his Freshman year at DeSales) – as we start off on this new adventure together.

So much great work has been done in the Family Ministries Office; I look forward to being a part of this new season working in God's vineyard to walk with those in need, both in their struggles as well as their celebrations, along the path that God sets out before us.

Please know that you are all in my prayers, always . . . and I look forward to working with all of you in the coming days to make the roads a little smoother and the burdens a little lighter for as many as possible.

Deacon Stephen Bowling

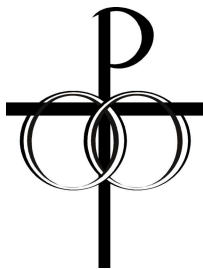
Recipes for Family Living

Anniversary Mass

**Watch for Registration Form,
Poster & Information in
September 4th mailing from the Chancery.**

A Mass of Thanksgiving for couples celebrating 30, 40, 50, 60 & 60 plus years of marriage in 2015 will be celebrated with Archbishop Kurtz at the Cathedral of the Assumption, Sunday, **NOVEMBER 1**, 2:00 p.m.

Registration is through the parishes; deadline to Family Ministries is October 20.



Retrouvaille (French for rediscovery)

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

Next Louisville area weekend - Sept. 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.

Next Louisville area weekend - Sept. 26-27

To learn more, visit www.wvme.org



FOCCUS Training

One Day - Saturday, October 17

Maloney Center, Louisville, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Cost: \$65 couple or individual; (Light lunch included)

To register , call 502-471-2142 or ckupper@archlou.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*

