



February 2018

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.

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"The strength of the family lies in its capacity to love and to teach how to love."



Pope Francis

## Marriage & Family Enrichment

contact: Deacon Stephen Bowling, [sbowling@archlou.org](mailto:sbowling@archlou.org)

### What is Marriage Anyway?

As I travel around the Archdiocese training married couples in our new "Companion Couple" marriage preparation program [Joined By Grace](#), I find myself constantly reflecting on the joys and virtues of marriage, especially as the dozens upon dozens of couples I have worked with so far share their stories with me.

There is one moment in the program, however, that I keep coming back to that perhaps is the most enlightening.

The Joined By Grace program has a [powerful video component](#) at its heart; it's a vehicle to showcase many married couples of various ages, ethnicities and states of life who give witness to what marriage is truly about . . . both as revealed by Christ, taught by the Church and lived in their daily lives.

There are [five couples who appear](#) throughout the 24 short videos of the program, but the very first words on the very first video are perhaps the most important.



The video opens with a 20-something recently married couple, Tim and Maggie Glemkowski from Chicago, and the words that Tim speaks to the camera first thing hit the nail right on the head:

*"It could be said that marriage is a lot of things . . . marriage to me is like Maggie Glemkowski. Marriage to me is this person I fell in love with and who I'm learning to love and love more as I continue to go on."*

Well said.

Marriage is indeed a personal experience. Marriage is also a testament of love. However, perhaps most of all, marriage is **a person** for each and every one of us who are married . . . and that is something we must not forget.

Marriage is one of the most romantic, the most spiritual, the most practical and the most life-giving of relationships that we as human beings can have, but in the lived experience of all who have ever undertaken it, it is also a person. This is foundational to our understanding of this wondrous sacrament (just as it is for all the sacraments actually). The grace of the sacraments is both personal and contained within a person as well — that being the person of Jesus Christ.

We sometimes distance the personhood of Jesus from the sacraments, just as we sometimes distance the personhood of those receiving them as well. It is easy to conceptualize and wax theological about the many gifts and virtues of the sacraments, but remembering that a person and persons are always at the heart of them, makes them come alive and real in a way that ideas by themselves simply cannot match.

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## Marriage & Family Enrichment cont.

Jesus Christ is a person . . . . The spouses in marriage are people. These people both give and receive life, and in the Sacrament of Matrimony all of these real people are to give themselves totally to the others, holding nothing back so as to renew the face of the Earth over and over again. It is a sacred event . . . one that we should all be proud to support and bless always.

If you'd like to actually hear Tim and Maggie – along with Jim and Cooky, Jerry and Erin and Cody and Erin – speak more about what marriage truly is, as experienced in their daily lives, check out the first video in the **Joined By Grace** program [HERE](#).

Link as text – <https://tinyurl.com/yast86qc>)



## Pro-Life

contact: Ed Harpring, [eharpring@archlou.org](mailto:eharpring@archlou.org)

### March for Life 2018 "Love Saves Lives"

***"You may not see the impact of your love, but God sees it. The love in your hearts is totally unique to you . . . and your love saves lives" Sr. Bethany Madonna's stirring heartfelt speech to a crowd of over 500,000 epitomized the theme of "Love Save Lives" at the March for Life Rally in Washington D.C. on January 19th. Sr. Bethany, with the Sisters of Life, a religious community dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the sacredness of every human life, was one of several speakers at the March for Life.***

Approximately 500 parishioners from the Archdiocese attended the March, with the clear majority being young people who are increasingly Pro-Life. Most of the Archdiocese's local high schools were well represented including students from Assumption, Sacred Heart, Mercy, Trinity, DeSales, Immaculata, Holy Angels, Bethlehem, homeschools and area public schools as well. Also, several Youth groups attended including some junior high school students.

The itinerary for the March for Life was a 3-day full-immersion in the dignity of human life including the St. John Paul II Shrine, on Thursday, January 18th that included a talk by Archbishop Kurtz in the Shrine auditorium to 200 students and adults focusing on the need to remain vigilant with all Life issues.



That evening, most of the Louisville pilgrims attended the annual Pro-Life Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. "We are here to advocate and give witness, to advocate for those who cannot yet speak or walk with us, the preborn baby, whose future is in jeopardy and can be ended by a so-called choice by another; to give witness that millions, mostly young people, share a passion that the little baby has civil rights," Cardinal Dolan proclaimed to the packed Church of nearly 20,000 of mostly high school and young adults, sitting almost anywhere, just to be part of a Life-affirming event.



The following morning, January 19th, most of the students sacrificed sleep and got up at 5:00 a.m. to eat and get on a bus to attend a Youth Mass and Rally at the Capital One Arena. Father Martino Choi, the parochial vicar of St. Patrick Parish in Rockville, Maryland, homilist at the Mass touched the hearts of the crowd with his moving story of a mother's decision to choose "life" in spite of her doctor's recommendation of abortion, warning her that her child would be born with birth defects and only have a year to live. Fr. Choi, explained, "It was not that the parents were capable of 'superhuman love' that made this possible, but what they had was faith. They recognized this life is a gift from God. They recognized that every human life is loved by God." To the surprise of the crowd, Fr. Choi revealed, "This woman is my mother and I am that child."

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## Pro-Life cont.

### *Reflections from High School Students attending March for Life 2018*

At the conclusion of the Youth Mass and Rally, the students and chaperones walked to the March for Life speaker stage located near the Washington Monument. Besides Sr. Bethany, other speakers addressing the March included Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, Pam Tebow, the mother of former pro-football player Tim Tebow, Matt Birk, former NFL player, several members of Congress and Vice-President Mike Pence. Also, a first in the history of the March was made when President Trump became the first sitting U.S. president to directly address the March for Life. President Trump echoed the Love Saves Lives theme by telling the crowd, "You love every child - born and unborn - because you believe that every life is sacred, that every child is a precious gift from God."

The pilgrimage concluded with a visit to the Capitol and the opportunity to hear from Representative Brett Guthrie and Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell. Despite the fatigue of two overnights on the bus, and the non-stop itinerary, the students came away with some fascinating comments.

**Christopher Kolibab Jr., a Trinity student** reflected on the March. "Being pro-life is being a voice for the voiceless, being able to stand up for those who are being stripped of their dignity. We are fighting for the commonplace idea that all are equal. Though many believe this in theory, action must be put into place, and that action starts with us. I feel returning from this trip is that we must all take this action. It doesn't have to be starting a club or whatnot, but simply starting with an overall changed mindset. If we love, we will be loved."



**Janell Prater Jr. student at Oldham County**, summed up her experience this way, "The trip for me was the emphasis on the dignity of life in all stages and all forms. Hopefully I can use this to help others understand what the pro-life movement is actually about. You always see on twitter and the media that pro-life people only care about people until birth, and then we abandon them to fend for themselves. The messy politics involved with the movement can often make it seem like that, but I want to share with people and let them know of a passion for life that does not have limits - no age restrictions, race, color, language, nationality, education or income. Amazing experience!!"

**Maggie Miller, an Ambassadors for Life member and senior at Immaculata Classical Academy**, who has attended the March several times came away with a distinct perspective from past years. "I've been to the March for Life for many years, but this year was different. I feel like because of the trip I've grown even more into the strength that my faith is determined to give me. As we spent two days traveling, marching, and most of all praying, I felt a fire begin to grow within my soul."

I feel like I was empowered by Sister Bethany Madonna, she seemed so on fire about the issue [of abortion], wanting everyone to know exactly how she felt and how she sees it. She brought back my own fire on the subject of abortion, my strength against it, and my want for no women to have to buy into the lie that this is a way to fix what they deem as a problem."



**Michael Dolson, a member of Ambassadors for Life**, attending his second March for Life. "It was absolutely amazing to be part of a crowd so large it was impossible to see it all at once, all united for one cause. This trip was finished perfectly with our attending the Students for Life of America Conference, where we were educated more fully on the abortion issue."

**Becca Ulrich, Ambassador for Life and senior at Bethlehem H.S.**, attending her third March for Life. "My trip to Washington D.C. for the March for Life was amazing. Besides the March, itself, my favorite part of traveling in D.C. is the Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Being in the Basilica with thousands of fellow Catholics is so awe inspiring, and you can definitely feel the presence of the Holy Spirit."

Every time I attend this pilgrimage I am blessed with a feeling of comfort and compassion. Just knowing the reason we are there to march, brings complete joy to my soul. I will always continue to protect life from the moment of conception to natural death. This pilgrimage is also an awesome time to connect with fellow classmates and friends who share the same belief as me. I cannot wait for next year to march for life in Washington D.C.!"



## Pastoral Care

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### The Scared in the Ordinary

February is the month when many celebrate LOVE. It is full of hopes for romantic dinners and a display of gifts that seemingly prove that *real love* exists. Although it can be fun to engage in the celebration, it can also be a time of disillusionment for those whose lives are not full of hearts and flowers, but simply ordinary daily events.

Scripture tells us in 1 John 4 that God is love and it is through that love we know God. What, then, makes the ordinary holy and what does holy mean? To be holy is to be grateful for oneself and the gift of life and to be enthusiastic about life. The expression of that enthusiasm can be found in humor and laughter. It can be found in compassion and understanding, in forgiveness, and in the act of loving and being loved. Through these acts of holiness we experience love and thus experience God.

In family life, holiness can appear chaotic. The commitment to marriage, especially when it is difficult or even “boring” is holy. The struggle to be family in a culture that touts individualism is holy. Families are holy when they learn to forgive and invest time and effort in facing their problems and doing something about them.

This kind of holy love is all around us on a daily basis. It is just a matter of recognizing it. Some examples can be seen when:

- You pick your child up from after school care and provide dinner and do homework when you are tired after a long day
- When you bring back the trash cans for an elderly neighbor
- When you listen to another’s struggles when your day had its own
- When you supervise your child’s use of technology
- When you check in with your aging parent.



These ordinary acts of love are only a few of those that surround us daily and not simply the one day in February. We have much to celebrate.

## Counseling Services

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### Teaching our Children the Sanctity of Life

February is the month of love. It isn’t just about cards, flowers and chocolate.

Recent national studies affirm the importance of love and caring in families. Research shows that expressions of affection toward children reduce problem behaviors and enhance children's development. Love is the single most important principle of parenting. If children do not feel cherished and loved, little else that parents do will have its maximum influence. Expressions of kindness increase family life satisfaction. Husbands' expression of appreciation for their wives are, by far, the strongest predictor of the wives' sense of fairness and satisfaction with how housework and child care are divided in the home.

Strong families notice and share positive aspects of each other. For example, they pay attention to another person's polite behavior or something nice he or she did or said. They notice the talents, skills and achievements, special qualities, and characteristics that make the other person unique. They find ways to be positive even when another family member makes a mistake. They make a conscious effort to develop closeness and show love at home.



Love can be shown in a multitude of ways. One example is good manners and everyday courtesy to a child or a spouse. This lets the person know that he or she matters. Treat family members as good friends. Ask children and other family members to do things rather than demand that they do them. Compliment good behavior. Thank family members for their efforts. Ask for opinions. Listen to comments. Avoid saying anything that is unkind or sarcastic.

Again there are many ways to show love in your family, in this month of February, how can you better show love in your family?

## Up & Coming

### Joined by Grace Training



#### Companion Couple - "Joined by Grace" Parish based Marriage Preparation Training Sessions

Thursdays, April 12 & 19	6:30 - 9:00 p.m.	St. Thomas More
Saturday, April 26	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	St. Joseph, Bardstown
Thursdays, May 17 & 24	6:30 - 9:00 p.m.	St. Gabriel

Contact Dcn. Stephen Bowling for more information [sbowling@archlou.org](mailto:sbowling@archlou.org) or 502-471-2127

### FOCCUS Training

One day Training for Facilitators

Saturday, March 3, Maloney Center, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cost is \$75 per individual/couple; \$20 for refresher. Lunch is included.

Registration required by February 23: [ckupper@archlou.org](mailto:ckupper@archlou.org) or 502-471-2142.



### Retrouvaille (French for rediscovery)

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

Indianapolis - February 23

Nashville - March 2

Cincinnati - April 6

To learn more, visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org)



### Marriage Encounter

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

Indianapolis - April 27

Louisville area - August 17

To learn more, visit [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org)



### 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

Sat, Feb 10 - St. Patrick Parish Priest

Visit: [HelpersLouisville.org](http://HelpersLouisville.org)

### Safe Environment Training

Sun, Feb 4 2:30 p.m. - St. Edward (Spanish)

Mon, Feb 5 6:30 p.m. - Holy Spirit

Mon, Feb 12 6:30 p.m. - St. James  
Elizabethtown

Wed, Feb 21 6:30 p.m. - St. Bernard

Mon, March 5 6:30 p.m. - St. Gabriel

Visit [www.archlou.org/restoringtrust/safe](http://www.archlou.org/restoringtrust/safe)

for additional dates



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