

COMMUNION OF LIFE AND LOVE

Notes on Marriage and Family Life

Marriage In the Lord

IT ONLY TAKES 5 MINUTES A WEEK TO SAVE MARRIAGE BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN...WON'T YOU JOIN US?

FOR YOU, FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

5 minutes a week and 5 friends add up to a lot!

Pennsylvania For Marriage only asks for 5 minutes a week to protect marriage in Pennsylvania. When you invite 5 Pennsylvanians to join the fight, and they ask 5 of their friends, pretty soon a small voice turns into a thunderous roar! Here's how we can win the fight for marriage between one man and one woman.

5 MINUTES A WEEK TO SAVE MARRIAGE

ACTION 1- PRAY! Please keep the Pennsylvania Marriage Amendment effort in your prayers.

ACTION 2- Invitation To Join. Invite 5 friends/family to join the "5 Minutes A Week To Save Marriage" campaign. Ask them to sign up on the website: www.pa4marriage.org.

ACTION 3 - Phone Your PA Legislators. Call your senator and representative and leave a brief message stating that you want them to support the Pa Marriage Amendment to protect marriage between one man and one woman. You can find them by going to <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/> and putting in your zip code. It's that easy!

ACTION 4 - Visit Your PA Legislators. Schedule a 5 minute meeting in the district office of your state representative and senator. Briefly tell them why you want them to protect marriage in Pennsylvania. Their district office can be located at www.legis.state.pa.us by putting in your zip code.

ACTION 5 - Write A Letter. Write a brief letter to your representative and senator telling them why you want them to protect marriage in Pennsylvania. Their district offices can be located at the web address above.

Three to Get Married Engaged Couples Retreat November 16-18 2007

Three to Get Married is a unique "commuter retreat" (no overnights) sponsored by the Legionaries of Christ. The Family Life Office recommends this program for those couples who wish to have a weekend retreat experience for their marriage preparation.

The weekend will take place at St. Sharbel's Maronite Catholic Church in Newtown Square, and registration for the retreat can be made through the Family Life Office. Call 215-587-5639 or email famlife@adphila.org for more information. This retreat fulfills the pre-Cana requirement for the Archdiocese.

Life in the Domestic Church

Reading the Bible as a Family

As the new school year starts, why not think about reading the Bible more as a family? Scripture, both the Old Testament (OT) and the New Testament (NT), shows us God's plan for our salvation, and He speaks to us through the Scriptures, giving us wisdom and peace. In reading the Bible, one gets to know Christ better, through reading of his words and deeds. There are many ways to incorporate the reading of Scripture more into family life.

One of the best ways to do this is to go to Mass together. At each Mass, there is an OT reading, a Psalm, and a Gospel reading from the NT. Parents should teach their children to be attentive during the Liturgy of the Word, as well as to be reverent during the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We are nourished by both.

Look up Scriptures from the Lectionary or USSCB website (<http://www.usccb.org/nab/>) for the coming Sunday, and read them together before Mass. Some websites give great suggestions for family discussions and activities that relate to the Sunday readings: www.hcfm.org/main/prayer-family.php and www.findinggod.org/m_frmwork.asp?id=7943.

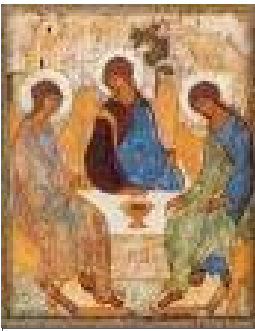
Read the Bible together as a family. Purchase a "Family Bible" with pages that allow you to record significant events in your family. This will not only be used for Scripture reading, but also as a family keepsake. Find some child-friendly translations of Scripture; there are many for different age groups. Be sure to get the Catholic version of the Bibles you buy, since they include certain books (like Maccabees) that other Bibles do not.

Read the Bible individually and teach your children to do the same. Have you ever tried to read the whole Bible in 1 year? It's easy with a schedule of just a few chapters a day (see www.catholicdoors.com/bible/1year.htm).

Make a display of favorite Bible verses on your refrigerator or another place the family will see often. Be creative and have fun!

Conference on Grief and Loss - October 27, 2007

The FLO is organizing a **Conference on Grief and Loss**, 9 am to 2 pm (optional 8:30 a.m. Mass) at the IHM Center, across from Immaculata University. We will cover issues on various types of human loss, such as death or divorce. It will be especially geared towards helping parishioners and parish staff interested in bereavement, separated/divorced, and related ministries. Cost: \$40 (breakfast and lunch included). Celia Ryan, accomplished grief therapist (www.griefworks.com), will be speaking. For more info and to register, call 215-587-3516 or e-mail tseyfer@adphila.org.



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Notes for Clergy on Marriage and Family Life

FOCCUS Workshop for Parish Pre-Cana Teams

FOCCUS is a pre-marital inventory designed to initiate dialogue between men and women preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. The **best** utilization of FOCCUS is for a trained facilitator to meet with a couple to discuss the inventory results. Becoming a **FOCCUS Facilitator** is a wonderful way for individuals and couples to participate in the marriage preparation apostolate. The Family Life Office will sponsor **FOCCUS Facilitator Formation on Thursday September 20 at Nativity BVM Church in Media, from 6:30-8:30 PM.** This session is ideal for priests, deacons, and married couples appointed by their pastors, who are interested in facilitating FOCCUS with couples preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. A trained facilitator will provide an overview of the inventory, and participants will practice facilitation skills to aid engaged couples in discussing issues surfaced by the FOCCUS inventory. If you would like to attend this session, or if you have identified a couple/individual in your parish who would be interested in this apostolate, contact the Family Life Office at 215-587-5639 or famlife@adphila.org to register. **There is no registration fee; participants pay for FOCCUS facilitator notebook and materials (\$45).**

Conference on “Experiencing Christ’s Love Through Grief and Loss” October 27, 2007

The Family Life Office is organizing a conference on “Experiencing Christ’s Love Through Grief and Loss: What You Need to Know to Help Yourself and Others,” on Oct. 27, 2007, from 9 am to 2 pm (optional 8:30-9 am Mass), at the IHM Spirituality Center, across from Immaculata University at 1140 King Rd. in Immaculata, PA (see <http://www.ihmimmaculata.org/docLinks/directions.html> for directions). We will cover issues related to various types of human loss, such as death, separation (from spouse, relatives, or friends), or divorce. It will be especially geared towards helping parishioners and parish staff who are interested in bereavement, separated/divorced, and related ministries, to understand grief and to help others who are experiencing grief issues. Featuring accomplished speaker and grief therapist Celia Ryan (www.griefworks.com). Cost is \$40 (\$150 for 5 or more people registered at same time from same parish), and breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information and/or to register, call 215-587-3516 or e-mail tseyfer@adphila.org.

PA 4 Marriage and Family Life Office Co-Sponsor Workshop

The Family Life Office is working with the marriage advocacy group **PA 4 Marriage** educate Catholics in the Archdiocese about the threats to marriage between one man and one woman. On **Friday, September 7**, PA 4 Marriage will hold a workshop on the Pennsylvania Marriage Protection Amendment. The workshop will be held at **St. Charles Borromeo Seminary** (College Auditorium) from **9:30 AM–NOON**, and it is open to priests, deacons and lay people. The workshop is free, and an RSVP is recommended, but not required. A second workshop will be held **Saturday, September 8, 9:30 AM–NOON**, at **International Institute for Culture**, 6331 Lancaster Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19151. For more information contact the Family Life Office at 215-587-5639, or email at famlife@adphila.org.

With pressure on all sides for same-sex marriage to be legalized, those who believe in traditional families must be vigilant in protecting what we had always taken for granted. Those seeking to drastically redefine marriage will work through the courts and in public opinion to get what they want. To prevent the destruction of marriage in Pennsylvania, several groups have joined together to lobby for an amendment to the state constitution which would limit marriage to one man and one woman. This would keep Pennsylvania's courts and a few activists from overturning the definition of marriage against the will of the citizens.

Don't Forget—the reverse side of this page can be photocopied and placed in the bulletin to keep your parish family posted on the latest in Family Life!