



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK  
FAMILY LIFE

# PASTORAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR JUNE 2024 TO DECEMBER 2025

*For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the “door” (cf. Jn 10:7-9) of our salvation whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all of us as “our hope” (1 Tim 1:1)*

Pope Francis, *Spes Non Confundit*, 2024







## ***Welcome to the Office of Family Life for the Archdiocese of New York!***

After a great deal of time and effort spent by the staff and consultative bodies of the Office of Family Life, I am pleased to present to you the *Pastoral Strategic Plan for June 2024 through December 2025*.

Based on the *Called to the Joy of Love: National Pastoral Framework for Marriage and Family Life Ministry* from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, this *Pastoral Strategic Plan* provides four areas of focus and lists priorities, initiatives, visions, and plans for each focus. As we face many marital and family situations, this *Pastoral Strategic Plan* focuses on practical and concrete ways by which we can help married couples and families be renewed, supported, and inspired by the love of God. We have provided a set of initiatives that can be adapted to your situations. My colleagues in the Office of Family Life and I look forward to collaborating with you.

It is our hope that the work presented here will be ongoing and enriching for all. As we prepare to celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025, Pope Francis reminds us, “We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision.”

Please contact us whenever necessary.

Theodore J. Musco, Director  
Office of Family Life

# PASTORAL STRATEGIC PLAN FOR JUNE 2024 TO DECEMBER 2025

## Focus: **ADVOCACY**

**Priority:** Provide support for those who lead Bereavement, Consolation, Mental Health, and Challenging Issues Ministry

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Vision</b>	<b>Plan</b>
<i>Nourish for Caregivers</i> Collaboration	Collaboration Support and encourage caregivers	Promote and encourage participation in <i>Nourish for Caregivers</i> initiative at the Archdiocesan and parish levels
Bereavement Group Training and Pastoral Development	Accompany and form Bereavement Leaders	Provide ongoing formation for those who are leading bereavement groups as well as initial training for prospective bereavement group leaders who are recommended by their pastor
<i>Beginning Experience</i> Collaboration	Support and promote retreats for single (separated, divorced, widowed) individuals	Promote resources for those grieving and processing the loss of a spousal relationship
<i>Emmaus Retreat for Grieving Parents</i> Collaboration	Encourage parishes to identify parents who are in need of support and provide resources to accompany those parents	Support and promote retreats and resources for parents grieving the loss of a child
Suicide Prevention	The Archdiocesan Task Force addresses suicide prevention within Catholic high schools, elementary schools, parishes, programs of faith formation, and families	Resources are available at <a href="https://archny.org/ministries-and-offices/family-life/br/sp"><u>archny.org/ministries-and-offices/family-life/br/sp</u></a>
Suicide Prevention	The Archdiocesan Task Force addresses suicide prevention within Catholic high schools, elementary schools, parishes, programs of faith formation, and families	The Archdiocesan Task Force continues to discern and select resources and initiatives related to suicide prevention and works collaboratively with parishes, Catholic schools, various departments and organizations to provide suicide prevention awareness and pastoral care

**Focus: ADVOCACY (cont.)**

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Vision</b>	<b>Plan</b>
Suicide Prevention	The Archdiocesan Task Force addresses suicide prevention within Catholic high schools, elementary schools, parishes, programs of faith formation, and families	OFL and parishes will promote Suicide Prevention Month annually in September
Consolation Ministry NEW INITIATIVE	A team of parish volunteers who work with parish leaders assisting with funeral and other arrangements	OFL will provide training to a team of parish volunteer ministers who assist the pastor at the time of the loss of a parishioner

**Focus: FORMATION**

**Priority:** Accompany families at every stage of life

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Vision</b>	<b>Plan</b>
<i>Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA)</i> Collaboration	Increase pastoral care for grandparents	OFL will assist the CGA in forming parish/regional grandparent groups
<i>Catholic Grandparents Association (CGA)</i> Collaboration	Increase pastoral care for grandparents	OFL and parishes will actively promote monthly Faith Cafe meetings and other CGA opportunities
<i>Strong Catholic Families</i> Collaboration	Collaborate with parishes and parents to form communities of parents to meet to share ideas and form relationships	In collaboration with pastor and parish leaders, CGA and OFL will create opportunities for parents to gather
<i>Catholic HOM</i> Collaboration	Provide a practical, digital resource for parents to use at their own pace	OFL and parishes will actively promote Catholic HOM app on the OFL website, social media, and by word of mouth

**Focus: FORMATION (cont.)**

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Vision</b>	<b>Plan</b>
<i>Active Parenting Collaboration</i>	Provide a curriculum to support and prepare families through “every stage, every step” of their child’s/teen’s development	Through Active Parenting, OFL will support and prepare parent leaders “every stage, every step”
<i>Embracing Life’s Transitions with Dignity, Clarity, and Stability Collaboration</i>	Affirming that every human person, in their journey through life, can live with hope, joy, and love	OFL will collaborate with ArchCare NY and other collaborative organizations to enhance outreach to those in need

**Focus: PRAYER AND RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST**

**Priority:** Implement and expand the Marriage Catechumenate

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Vision</b>	<b>Plan</b>
<i>Pre-Catechumenal Stage Discernment and Vocation Awareness</i>	Develop key themes of vocation, interconnectedness, and discernment to assist in promoting Catholic marriage	OFL will offer opportunities for vocation awareness by collaborating with various offices and agencies
Intermediate Stage (Engagement)	Intermediate Stage (Engagement)	OFL, working with parishes as they develop a marriage catechumenate, will offer opportunities for engaged couples including an Archdiocesan Mass for Engaged Couples
Proximate Stage (Pre-Cana)	Foster a welcoming and supportive community for engaged couples	Promote the Pre-Cana program and provide parishioner training to create a “marriage friendly” parish

**Focus: PRAYER AND RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST (cont.)**

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Vision</b>	<b>Plan</b>
Final Stage (Two–three months and wedding)	Accompany couples as they approach the wedding day and especially the week prior to the wedding	OFL will help to create opportunities for parishioners and parish leaders to gather with those soon to be married, and work with parishioners to form marriage ministry groups
First Years – Married Couples Evangelization (First three years)	Accompany and promote community among newlyweds	Encourage married couples to participate in the <i>Building a Eucharistic Marriage</i> course; see OFL website for more information
First Years – Married Couples Evangelization (First three years)	Accompany and promote community among newlyweds	OFL and parishes will work to establish Newlywed Groups with Mentor Couples
First Years – Married Couples Evangelization (First three years)	Accompany and promote community among newlyweds	OFL will sponsor monthly Post-Cana Brunches and follow up with couples
First Years – Married Couples Evangelization (First three years)	Accompany and promote community among newlyweds	OFL will sponsor ongoing sessions for live and online ALPHA Marriage Course
First Years – Married Couples Evangelization (First three years)	Accompany and promote community among newlyweds	OFL and parishes will promote and sponsor Marriage Week events
Crisis Times	Provide opportunities and networks for those separated or divorced	The coordinator of the OFL Separated and Divorced Ministry will provide opportunities for group facilitator training for new facilitators and well as those already serving in that position and hold quarterly sessions for those who are separated or divorced

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## Focus: ACCOMPANIMENT

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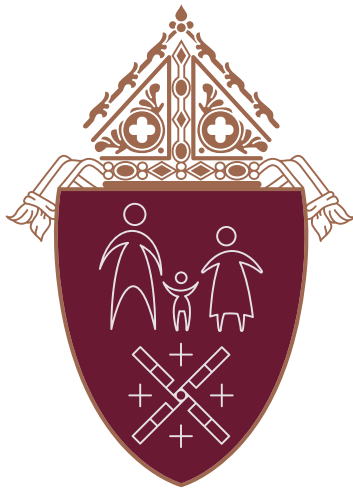
**Priority:** Accompany and advocate for parishes and parishioners as Joy-filled Witnesses

Initiative	Vision	Plan
40+ Groups New initiative	Provide networks for those 40 years or older who desire to deepen a relationship with Christ and his Church	OFL, working in collaboration with interested parishioners, will establish parish-based and/or regional groups for those 40 years or older, including “Empty Nesters”
40+ Groups	Provide networks for those 40 years or older who desire to deepen a relationship with Christ and his Church	The Director of OFL will meet with parish leaders and others who already have successful groups for 40+ and older adults
Parish Renewal Programs	OFL will introduce pastors and parish leaders to programs and initiatives that promote parish and family renewal	OFL will meet with pastors and parishes leaders to discern if and when a parish program for family life and marriage renewal is to be implemented; some option programs include: Divine Renovation, Revive, Communio, Parish Catalyst, etc.
Whole Family Evangelization	Accompany families in their relationship with Christ, one another, and his Church	OFL will collaborate with parishes to enhance the parish’s outreach to families, large and small, based on particular needs and desires
Jubilee “Holy Year” 2025	Pope Francis, in <i>Spes Non Confundit (Hope Does Not Disappoint)</i> , reminds us that this entire year will be one of hope and grace for the entire Church; encourage families, large and small, to be signs of HOPE	The universal Church, the Archdiocese of New York, parishes, and families will celebrate the various Jubilees throughout the Holy Year



**Focus: ACCOMPANIMENT (cont.)**

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Vision</b>	<b>Plan</b>
Jubilee “Holy Year” 2025	Pope Francis, in <i>Spes Non Confundit (Hope Does Not Disappoint)</i> , reminds us that this entire year will be one of hope and grace for the entire Church; encourage families, large and small, to be signs of HOPE	The Archdiocese of New York and OFL will promote Jubilee 2025 on the our various websites and social media, as well as in the OFL newsletter – see <a href="http://archny.org/family-life">archny.org/family-life</a> for Jubilee 2025 information
<i>Safe Haven Sunday / Covenant Eyes Collaboration</i>	Annually promote Safe Haven Sunday as an anti-pornography initiative that focuses on conversations about the topic between parents and children	Priests throughout the Archdiocese of New York will participate in the initiative annually by preaching homilies on the topic of antipornography
<i>Safe Haven Sunday / Covenant Eyes Collaboration</i>	Annually promote Safe Haven Sunday as an anti-pornography initiative that focuses on conversations about the topic between parents and children	Safe Haven Sunday is held annually on the Second Sunday of Lent, but may be held on another Sunday that better suits the parish
<i>Safe Haven Sunday / Covenant Eyes Collaboration</i>	Annually promote Safe Haven Sunday as an anti-pornography initiative that focuses on conversations about the topic between parents and children	Resources are available through OFL or online at <a href="http://archny.org">archny.org</a>
<i>Safe Haven Sunday / Covenant Eyes Collaboration</i>	Annually promote Safe Haven Sunday as an anti-pornography initiative that focuses on conversations about the topic between parents and children	OFL will provide information regarding the new offering provided by the University of St. Thomas Center for Faith and Culture Certificate in Sexuality and Gender



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