



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK FAMILY LIFE

TO: Pastors and Administrators
FROM: Theodore J. Musco, Director
DATE: December 15, 2022
RE: *Called to the Joy of Love*—Family Life 2023

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph will be celebrated this year on Friday, December 30. This feast seeks to portray the Holy Family as a model for our families. This feast also gives us the opportunity to focus on the needs of families throughout the Archdiocese in new and exciting ways. Thank you, in advance, for all the work you currently do to address important family life issues.

I hope that you have had a chance to review the document *Called to the Joy of Love: A National Framework for Marriage and Family Life Ministry* <https://tinyurl.com/2uefjbn4> from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. During this past fall, I spoke on several occasions regarding the four foundations listed in the document: Prayer and Relationship with Christ, Formation, Accompaniment, and Advocacy. The guidelines provided in the document promote a comprehensive pastoral plan for Marriage and Family Life. The process used in the document has three focuses: Educate...Encourage...Engage which we will examine on a regular basis. We will use those focuses as well as we build on the four foundations.

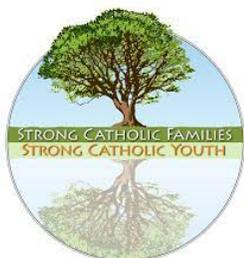
There are four major initiatives that I propose for your consideration that have been slated for implementation at various levels in the next few years. These initiatives include:



SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY—WEEKEND OF MARCH 12, 2023

<https://learn.covenanteyes.com/churches/>

At Covenant Eyes, we care about you and those you serve. We have crafted resources that specifically address needs for the people in your church.



<https://nfcym.org/programs/strong-catholic-families/>

Strong Catholic Families helps church leaders envision how the Catholic Church can more effectively partner with parents to help bring home the faith. Developed by NFCYM in 2005, the program offers a series of diocesan and parish level training, presentations, online and print resources, and Catholic Parent Revivals. Spanish language training (*Fortaleciendo Familias en la Fe*) and presentations are also available.



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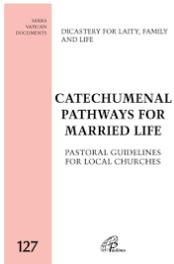
FAMILY LIFE



<https://communio.org/about/>

Communio is a nonprofit that consults with churches equipping them with proven strategies and technologies to solve our nation's family and faith crisis.

More information will be forthcoming in the new year.



The Holy Father speaks of proper formation for those involved in the Marriage Catechumenate in this way, "In order to effectively implement a renewed pastoral care of married life, it has to become indispensable that couples offer accompaniment, in parishes and family movements, as well as priests, already from the time of their seminary formation, and religious and consecrated men and women, be adequately formed and prepared in mutual complementarity and ecclesial co-responsibility." *Amoris Laetitia*, 203; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1632

I invite you to prayerfully consider these initiatives and others as a means of creating family friendly communities of faith. The staff of the Office of Family Life will accompany you and your parish as we together discern the plan that our Lord has for us and the people we serve. I look forward to meeting you if I have not done so already and ask for your prayers for the success of the mission entrusted to us.

I look forward to sharing more insights with you throughout the days ahead, and am happy to answer any questions you might have now or in the future.

During these final days of Advent, may the blessings of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph be with us now and always.