



## ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK FAMILY LIFE

TO: Pastors and Administrators  
FROM: Theodore Musco, Director  
RE: Office of Family Life Marriage and Family Life Directors (Leaders)—ACTION NEEDED  
DATE: February 20, 2023

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I write to you having now completed seven Educate-Encourage-Engage Meet and Greet Meetings throughout the Archdiocese of New York. Approximately 200 priests, deacons, religious, lay leaders, and parishioners attended these meetings. Thank you to all who attended. These sessions have proven to be beneficial and have identified some major topics for ongoing discussion and implementation. In each session, the idea of having a family life “point person” in each parish or collaborative was mentioned by one or more participants.

Continuing our ongoing implementation of a pastoral plan for parishes and families of the Archdiocese of New York, the staff of the Office of Family Life has worked during these past few months to identify Marriage and Family Life Directors. At the present, we have been able to identify less than two dozen parishes who indicate they have a Marriage and Family Life Director (Leader).

In the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ 2021 national framework document which I have shared with you before *Called to the Joy of Love*, Marriage and Family Life Directors in parishes are defined as follows:

This form of ministry includes all pastoral care to the engaged, married, and families/family members in their walk of faith. Catholic leaders—ordained, consecrated, and lay—both paid and volunteer who serve and minister to couples preparing for marriage, married couples, and families are designated here as “marriage and family life directors.” These leaders may serve at the parish and diocesan/eparchial levels.

For us in the Archdiocese, these identified leaders will be asked to participate in formation sessions, meet to discuss various initiatives, promote events and activities relating to Family Life, and serve as a resource for the families of your parish/collaborative. All of this is, of course, with your support and involvement to the degree possible. As Pastor or Administrator, you will always receive the information from our Office and are always invited to attend our events and meetings.

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I want to be very clear that I am not suggesting that this is necessarily another position that needs to be added to your staff. In some cases, this contact person is you, or the catechetical leader, or another pastoral leader that meets with married couples, etc., paid or volunteer. I want to acknowledge the great work being done by Directors and Coordinators of Faith Formation/Religious Education, Youth Ministers, and others who work with families already. By identifying one person or a couple, we will be able to work directly with the representative of your parish/collaborative to further the mission of marriage and family life as explained in *Called to the Joy of Love*. We just would like to know who this contact person or couple is and how we can communicate with them.

**I ask that you please take the time to complete the accompany form and return it to me no later than March 1, 2023. The form can be completed online and sent back digitally or can be printed and mailed to my attention.**

Click here to access the form <https://forms.office.com/r/n7QEgcW7Ed>

I look forward to meeting you if I have not already. Please refer to our website at <https://archny.org/ministries-and-offices/family-life/> for updated information.

Many thanks for your prayers and support. I am looking forward to further opportunities to collaborate with you regarding the many aspects of family life.