

WELCOMING THE DIVORCED AND SINGLE PARENTS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Presented by Jo Holt

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OVERVIEW

- Identify the audience – do your assumptions match the data?
- Why do we care?
- How do you reach them?
- Best practices you can use today!
- Resources



WHAT ARE YOUR ASSUMPTIONS?

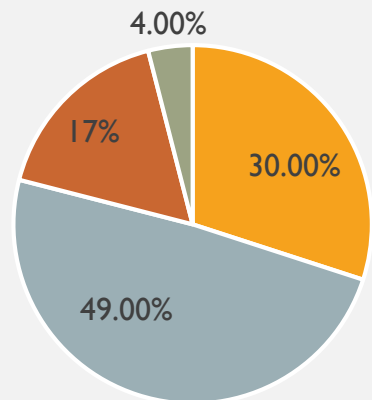
WHO ARE THE SINGLE PARENTS?

- A steady decline of two-parent households in the US:
 - 87% in 1960
 - 73% in 2000
 - 69% today
- 82.2% are mothers, and 17.8% are fathers
- Only a portion of single parents are divorced
- Children from single-parent households often lack routines, like eating dinner together (US Census Bureau, November 2017)



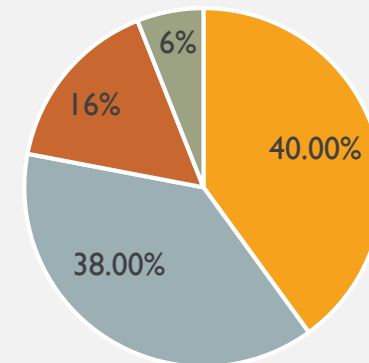
HOW DID THEY BECOME SINGLE PARENTS?

MOTHERS



■ Divorced ■ Never Married ■ Separated ■ Widowed

FATHERS



■ Divorced ■ Never Married ■ Separated ■ Widowed

* According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2014)

SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS

MOTHERS

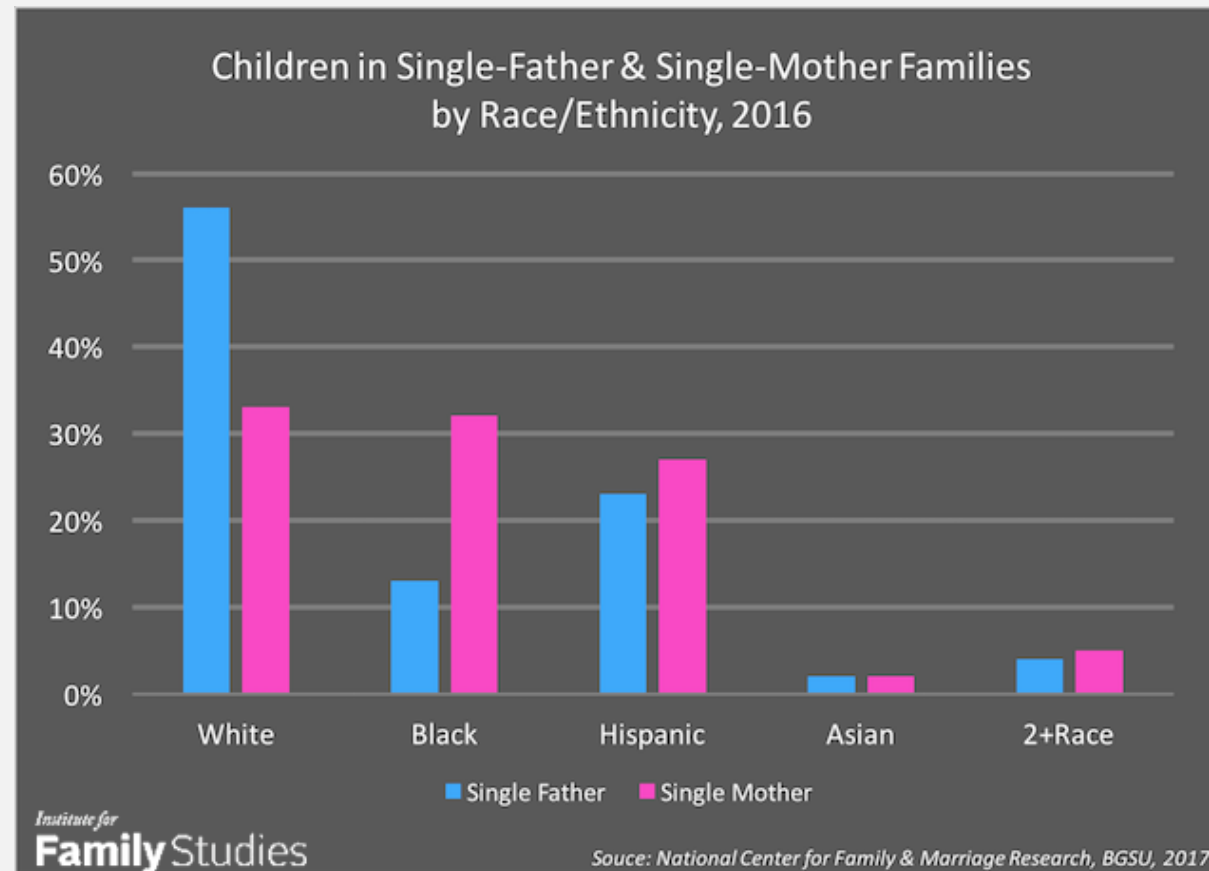
- 16% are cohabiting with a partner
- Median income is \$26,000
- 18% have a bachelor's degree

FATHERS

- 41% are cohabiting with a partner
- Median income is \$40,000
- 23% have a bachelor's degree

** According to the US Census Bureau, November 2017*

SINGLE-PARENT HOUSEHOLDS



WHY DO WE CARE?

- We are in the ministry of accompanying others toward a relationship with Jesus Christ.
- There are approximately 15 million single moms in the U.S.
- 67% of single parents are not actively attending a local church.
- Less than 1% of Christian Evangelical churches have a formalized ministry to serve this audience.
- If we do not do something, we are **MISSING OUT!**

“Special attention is to be given in the guidance of single-parent families, so that women who have to bear alone the responsibility of providing a home and raising their children can receive assistance.”

- *Final Relatio on the Extraordinary Synod on the Family, 2014*



“Whatever the cause, single parents must receive encouragement and support from other families in the Christian community, and from the parish’s pastoral outreach. Often, these families endure economic difficulties, uncertain employment prospects, problems with child support and lack of housing.”

- Pope Francis, General Audience, March 19, 2014



HOW DO WE REACH THEM?

- Look within your walls
- Drive around your community
- Solicit the audience



EVALUATE YOUR HOMILIES

- Do your homilies include single parents?
- Be sensitive to the widowed and divorced on holidays
- Make an invitation



CREATE A HOSPITABLE ENVIRONMENT

- Offer childcare
- Offer a meal in conjunction with meetings and presentations
- Sit next to a single parent and offer assistance during the Mass
- Invite them into ministry
- Adopt a single-parent family



CREATE OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

- Childcare
- Meals
- Financial assistance
- Spiritual support and prayer warriors
- Household and car maintenance



FORM A MINISTRY

- Empower single parents to be a resource for each other
- Teach them how to pray and answer their questions about the faith
- Identify their needs, teach them skills and provide them resources
 - Control vs. No Control
 - Achieving Balance
 - Finance & Budgeting
 - Discipline vs. Punishment
 - Loneliness & Dating

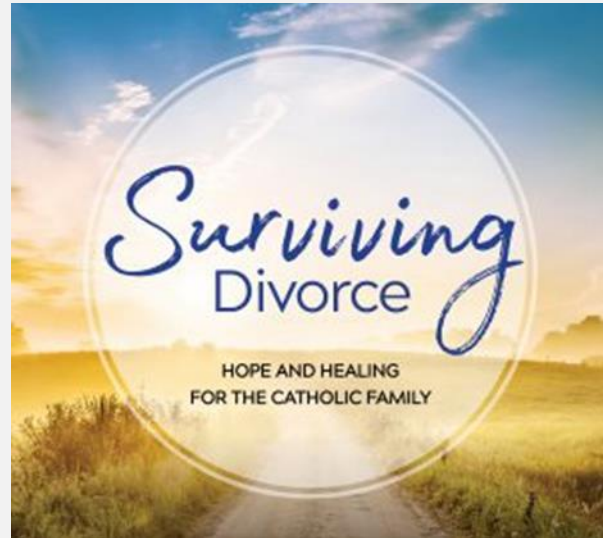


“ I needed to tell my story, and they listened. I needed accompaniment and they walked with me. I needed to be with other believers and needed them to pray for me...all in a fun and safe place that God had prepared for me.”

- Participant of “Single & Raising Saints” ministry

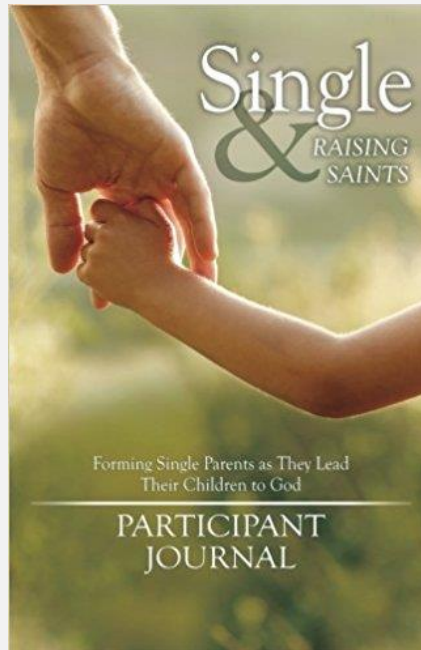
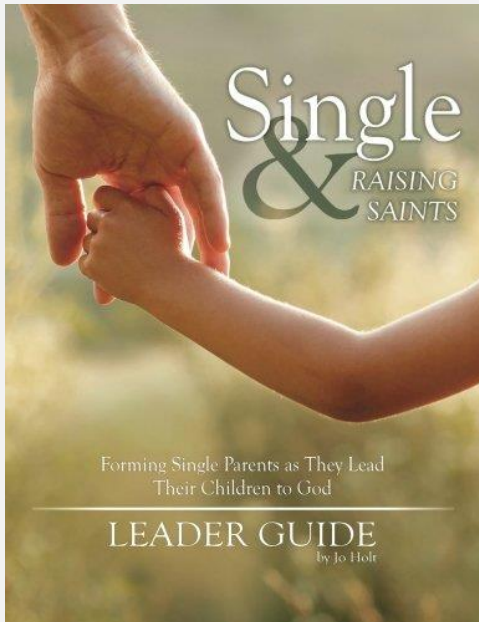


DIVORCE RESOURCE



12-week program
Developed by Rose Sweet
www.rosesweet.com

SINGLE-PARENT RESOURCE



9 sessions
By Jo Holt
www.raisedinfaith.com

Purchase through me by May 31
and receive a 20% discount!

QUESTIONS?

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