



STRENGTHENS couples to renew their commitment & grow in the skills for a happy & holy marriage

EDUCATES all members about the nature & purposes of marriage as a natural institution & a Christian sacrament

RATE THE FOLLOWING:

3 = Yes! We do that 2 = We do it, but it needs improvement 1 = No, we don't do that

STRENGTHENING the Married

“As a couple grows in virtue, they grow in holiness. In other words, the couple acquires, by prayer and discipline, those interior qualities that open them to God’s love and allow them to share in his love more deeply. Couples instinctively understand this when they speak about their marriage being a means of leading each other to heaven...”

“Communication and relationship skills are crucial to building such intimacy. As spouses learn to improve their communication, they can better respond to each other’s need for love, acceptance, and appreciation. They deepen marital intimacy and strengthen their practice of chastity.”

From Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan

EDUCATING in Skills

- ___ 1. Topics related to the promotion and protection of marriage in society are included in our programs.
- ___ 2. Adult faith formation programs (RCIA) include the Church’s teachings on marriage.
- ___ 3. Parish library includes books and media offering support and help for marriage.
- ___ 4. Baptismal preparation program includes the adjustments in marriage when a new baby is born and the importance of their role as primary educators of their children.
- ___ 5. Education opportunities regarding healthy relationships, communication skills, financial planning are offered for singles, engaged couples, married couples, parents, divorced, widowed, hurting families, stepfamilies, and elders.
- ___ 6. Theology of the Body is taught to youth, young adults and the married.
- ___ 7. Natural Family Planning instruction is available and promoted regularly.
- ___ 8. Bulletin inserts on marriage related topics and links to web-sites supporting marriage are included on a regular basis.

RENEWING & Enriching the Married

- ___ 9. Monthly “Marriage-Building Sunday” is established.
- ___ 10. Names are submitted for diocesan anniversary celebration.
- ___ 11. Married couples are publicly honored for milestone years at Mass, in the bulletin, with anniversary card, on Monthly “Marriage-Building Sunday,” etc.
- ___ 12. Prayers for married couples are in the pews or pamphlet racks.

- ___ 13. Signage in the parish is displayed on being a “Marriage-Building” parish & What Have You Done For Your Marriage Today?
- ___ 14. Parish retreats for married couples are offered at least annually.
- ___ 15. Practical bulletin inserts promoting marriage include prayers, customs, rituals and traditions throughout the year.
- ___ 16. Military couples are intentionally invited to marriage enrichment opportunities, particularly when reintegrating after deployment.
- ___ 17. Marriage enrichment programs include components that are relevant to all cultures.
- ___ 18. Follow-up contact is made with newly married couples.
- ___ 19. The Catholic newsletter, Foundations, is provided for couples during their first year of marriage (www.foundationnewsletter.net)
- ___ 20. Make available the study guide of the US Bishop’s Pastoral Letter, Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan.
- ___ 21. Marriage enrichment opportunities are provided/promoted monthly, quarterly, and annually.
- ___ 22. Child care/activities are provided or list of potential babysitters is offered for marriage enrichment and other programs opportunities.
- ___ 23. Newly married couples are invited to be actively involved in the parish, invited to parish functions and to volunteer for specific functions.
- ___ 24. Groups of married couples meet for support.
- ___ 25. Couple Prayer Series is available to assist couples to pray together daily.
- ___ 26. Opportunities exist for married couples to be in small Christian communities.

Total Score

out of possible 78

Top three priorities for STRENGTHENING the Married:

| Item No. | Action (Improve/Begin) |
|----------|------------------------|
| 1. _____ | _____ |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ |