

FOR THE FAMILY CONTINUED ...

CATHOLIC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP: A ministry for men's spirituality focusing on family, church and community. For more information call (716) 364-1010 or visit www.spiritiscalling.org.

FOR HEALING ...

Divorce/Separation

Divorce Packet: For someone who is newly separated or divorced. Designed to provide resources, information and support that are practical and able to be used immediately. For more information or to receive a packet call the Office of Family Life Ministries at (716) 847-2210.

Parenting Packet: Designed for those parents who are separated or divorced. Focuses on positive ways to co-parent well in order to help children of all ages from birth through teens who are profoundly affected by their parents' divorce and deal with the pain and upheaval in their lives. Includes practical items for teens, a variety of communication and skill-building techniques and lots more. Both single parents can utilize these resources. The more this is implemented mutually, the more healthy the family. To receive this packet call Family Life Ministries.

Annulment Companions provide the extra support people need while going through a process that can be filled with questions, doubts, fears, anger, emotional uncertainty and heartache. Annulment writing workshops are offered to assist individuals to prepare the paper work necessary to begin the annulment procedures. Referrals provided. No charge. No obligation. Contact Barbara Wyse at (716) 633-7786 or e-mail BJWTR@aol.com

CROSSROADS: Crossroads is a Catholic Community of single adults, forty years and older, seeking to share diversified spiritual and social needs and blessings. For anyone interested in knowing more about this organization—for a taste of upcoming events—for cancellations due to weather, for membership information, etc. please call Marge at (716) 685-0929.

BEREAVEMENT RESOURCES

Bereavement Support Packets: Grief is a normal, healthy response to loss and has many dimensions. A bereavement resource packet to assist with loss and grief is yours by contacting our office. We also have Parenting Packet III designed to help parents discuss death and grief with a child. Packets contain materials that provides support for a grieving person immediately after or within the first year after the loss occurs.

FOR HEALING CONTINUED ...

Visit Catholic Cemeteries, Diocese of Buffalo website at www.buffalocatholiccemeteries.org for other resources and programs offered to give support to all people grieving the loss of a loved one.

Wilson Support Center, formerly known as Life Transitions Center, provides a variety of bereavement support, information, education, and resources to anyone concerned about loss, grief, death, and living with a life-threatening illness. The Mary & Ralph Wilson, Jr. Support Center is an affiliate of The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care (Hospice Buffalo). For more information about support groups and programs call the Center at (716) 836-6460, located at 150 Bennett Road, Cheektowaga or visit www.PalliativeCareBuffalo.com

WNY Perinatal Bereavement Network, Inc.

Helping people facing perinatal death, the death of a baby from miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or early infant death. For information call Christine Scott, Executive Director (716) 626-6363 or visit www.wnyperinatal.org

Beginning Experience is a weekend adapted to the formerly married and meant for persons who have worked through the first stages of grief after the death or separation/divorce of one's spouse. They hold a couple of weekends a year at Camp Stella Maris, 4395 East Lake Road, Livonia NY 14487 on Conesus Lake. For information, contact Liz and Steve Wascak at (585) 237-5155 or visit the website: www.beginningexperiencechesterny.org.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES ...

Development of family and parenting resources that are practical, easy to use and accessible to families are offered seasonally and coincide with the liturgical cycle of the church. They are designed to encourage the spiritual dimension of "ordinary" family life. For information and free resources, see website or contact the Office.

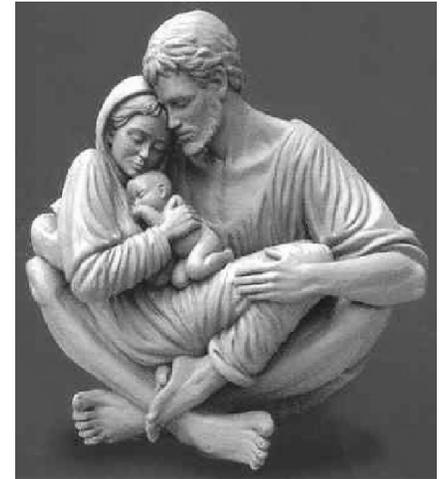
Family Life is concerned about keeping the family unit together. We are also concerned about those family members experiencing difficulties or challenges e.g. adoption, blended families, single parent families, families with members who have disabilities, dealing with in-laws, all types of abuse and more. We will provide referrals and resources.

Information, brochures or materials on any of these Family Ministries unless otherwise indicated are available through our Office.

We look forward to hearing from you!

God Bless You and Yours!

9/2016



OFFICE OF FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES

*"God is Love. Let us love one
another as God has loved us"
1 John 4:8-11*

*Our mission is to reflect caring concern
and compassionate pastoral presence
for family in all dimensions be it
traditional families, blended
families, single parent families,
international families, single persons,
those adopted, disabled, those hurting
and suffering in order to more fully
experience God in their daily life.*

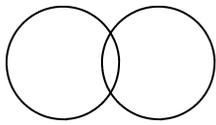
**Catholic Center
795 Main Street
Buffalo, NY 14203**

**Phone: (716) 847-2210
8:30 am to 4:30 pm**

**[www.buffalodiocese.org/Pastoral
Services/FamilyLife](http://www.buffalodiocese.org/PastoralServices/FamilyLife)**

e-mail: familylife@buffalodiocese.org

Nancy Scherr, Director



FOR THE ENGAGED ...

The Family Life Office recommends the use of the resource, “**Perspectives on Marriage.**” It is adaptable on the parochial, regional or vicariate level and can be used individually with a sponsor couple, in a group gathering for at least two (2) evenings or a one (1) day session. Topics include communication, conflict resolution, family of origin, marital roadblocks, finances, sacramental commitment and spirituality.

Journey Into Love is a diocesan one day marriage preparation program that uses presentations offered by trained married couple teams. Engaged couples use various communication exercises focusing on such areas as dynamics of effective communication, intimacy, marital roadblocks, natural family planning and sacramental marriage. Program includes a continental breakfast, lunch, program materials and prayer. Dates and location for this program are found on the diocesan website: www.buffalodiocese.org/PastoralSevices/FamilyLife/FortheEngaged.

CANA II: A program designed for couples planning **remarriage** in the church and **blending families together with children**. Some of the topics addressed include family background, Step-family structure, handling conflict, money management, communication, and sacramental marriage. *This program specifically fits the needs of couples in which at least one person is widowed or divorced.* In the latter case, previous marriages need to have been annulled or declared invalid by the Church.

FOR THE MARRIED ...

National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage

For tips and resources to strengthen your marriage visit www.foryourmarriage.org.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends offer a couple an opportunity to deepen one’s love relationship with each other and God as well as revitalizing one’s marriage using a technique of loving communication. For information go to www.wme-wny.org. Brochures and schedule of current dates of weekends are available. Contact your Office of Family Life Ministries.

Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Annual recognition of couples celebrating their 50th, 60th, and 70 plus anniversaries of marriage with Mass and reception to follow. Families are welcome to attend with honorees. For specific details, contact your parish or see our website.

Teams of Our Lady is a program that seeks to promote married love that not only leads to God but also to a more intimate and enriching relationship with one’s spouse. For more information contact your Office of Family Life Ministries at (716) 847-2210. To learn more about Teams of Our Lady visit: www.teamsofourlady.org.

Retrouaille (Rediscovery) is a peer ministry program which consists of a weekend and follow up sessions focusing on issues related to a couple’s emotional life such as disillusionment, anxiety, lack of communication. Other areas touched on include forgiveness, healing, conflict, trust, intimacy and sacrament. This is a Catholic program that welcomes couples of all faith traditions as well. Data shows that after 5 years over 75% of participating couples are not only still together but definitely have improved their once strained marital relationship. Information and brochures are offered through your Office of Family Life Ministries or go to www.marriagesaved.com for overview of program and registration process.

FOR THE FAMILY ...

Enthronement of the Sacred Heart: An active spiritual program carried out in the home increasing personal and family devotion to the Sacred Heart. The core, the heart, the essence of this ritual is LOVE. For information contact Tom and Paula Radel at (716) 633-3939 or e-mail tjradel@yahoo.com.

Natural Family Planning provides couples with a safe effective means to achieve or avoid pregnancy and gain understanding of their gift of fertility. For information contact Catholic Fertility Care Centers of WNY at Sister’s Hospital (716) 862-1944, Mercy Hospital (716) 828-2493 or Mt. St. Mary’s Hospital in Lewiston (716) 298-2385 or (716) 298-2296 or visit www.chsbuffalo.org.



Bishop’s Committee For Christian Home & Family (BCVP)

This program assists parents in the religious and moral training of their pre-school children. As part of the pre-baptismal class or at the baptism itself, free educational spiritual materials are given to the parents at the parish level.

Visitors meet twice yearly for updating, mutual support, liturgy, sharing and a Day of Reflection. The Bishop offers his encouragement and thanksgiving for this valuable ministry in the Diocese of Buffalo.

Catholic Women’s Discussion Program (CWDP) (formerly BCDP) is open to persons of all faith traditions. It is a discussion group that meets once a month from October–May. Meetings are facilitated by trained leaders and each meeting centers on a topic of a spiritual nature. This encourages personal growth; offers support; strengthens one’s faith and fosters the sharing of ideas and feelings all from a Catholic/Christian perspective. Sharing takes place in an accepting/confidential environment. To begin a group, contact your Office of Family Life Ministries.



M.O.M.S. (Ministry of Mothers Sharing) A ministry designed for moms by moms to support and affirm women in the many roles of life as mothers, wives, daughters, sisters and friends. We are women bonded by our vocation and our Catholic Faith gathering to share joys and struggles. Open meetings are once a month from September to May. Child care available. For information contact Dawn Iacono at (716) 207-5172 or email Dawn5554@aol.com.