



Program Guide 2011/12

Family Life/Respect Life Office

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Family Life/Respect Life Office

Program Guide 2011/12

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Welcome!

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are very pleased to present to you the 2010/2011 Family Life/Respect Life Program Guide. Within these pages you will find a detailed listing of programs and services offered and available through the Family Life Office.

Many of these programs are familiar to you – and yet you may be surprised at others that exist and that could be a help to you and your parish family. An overview of our programs is as follows:

- Respect Life – opportunities, programs, and events
- Marriage preparation (pre-Cana) for the Archdiocese of New York
- Marriage Enrichment – enhancing and revitalizing marriage after the vows!
- Natural Family Planning – the antidote to contraception, and help for infertility
- Chastity Education – new to the Archdiocese this year!
- Education For Parenting – excellent support, and age appropriate
- Bereavement – support groups, post-abortion outreach, and more
- Separated and Divorced – outreach through support
- Spanish Programs – marriage preparation & enrichment, and respect life
- Public Policy – Education on public policy issues
- Young Adult Outreach – An exciting and growing ministry!

I invite you to take a moment and browse through this little booklet, or make it available to your staff who may find it quite helpful. Feel free to contact us with your particular interests, thoughts, or questions – we are here to serve.

You can also obtain a wealth of educational materials and parish bulletin inserts from our website – available free for download – by visiting www.flrl.org. Our mission is to assist you, our shepherds, in building up your flock, in ways that will help lead them to know, love, and serve Christ, Our Lord, and one another.

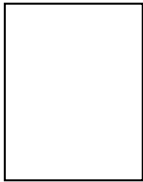


Sincerely in Christ,

Sr. Veronica Mary, S.V., Director
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Sr. Lucy Marie, S.V., is in her sixth year in the Family Life Office, and she is beginning her fourth year as **Respect Life Coordinator** for the Archdiocese. Prior to this position she had been serving pregnant women in need in the Sisters of Life Visitation Mission. As a founding member of the community, she has served in various additional capacities: formation, retreat works for the community, full time evangelization, and post-abortion healing. She is a native New Yorker, having grown up in Westchester County (St. Gregory the Great parish, in Harrison, NY) though she was originally born in Italy. Her great joy in religious life is in being able to place herself at the disposal of God and letting Him do as He wills – and that has taken her on many wonderful adventures of faith and love.



Sr. Shirley Ann, S.V., became **Assistant Respect Life Coordinator** in August, 2011. Before assuming that mission, she spent three years at St. Augustine's convent in Scarborough, in the outskirts of Toronto, Canada, renewing the culture of life in that formerly Catholic country. Prior to that, she was at the Holy Respite convent on the west side of Manhattan, serving vulnerable pregnant women.

The **Respect Life Program:**

- Coordinates parish, regional, and diocesan-wide activities in each of four major areas of the Bishops' Pastoral Plan on Pro-Life Activities:
 1. Educational and Informational resources, and events & conferences
 2. Pastoral Care to those in need of assistance with pregnancy or who have been affected by abortion
 3. Public Policy updates and legislative action alerts
 4. Prayer and Worship

- Encourages the formation and development of **Parish-based Respect Life Committees:**
 - To facilitate the establishment and continuing growth of individual respect life programs in each parish. Programs are developed by a core group assigned by, and under the guidance and authority of, the pastor. Currently we have approximately 200 lay parish respect life coordinators and 80 priest respect life coordinators.

Our office provides training where needed or requested, and offers ongoing, up-to-date support, resources, and ideas for promoting a culture of life within the parish community.

For more information, please contact:

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Marriage Preparation



Christopher Mueller, a happily married father of three, has been the **Coordinator of Marriage Preparation** since he joined the office staff in 2005. He and his wife, Constanza, teach “Part Two” of the Partners in Life and Love marriage preparation courses. In his role as Coordinator, he schedules these classes, works with presenters and facilities, and keeps all the course listings up-to-date on the website. He also does some work for the office in graphic design, general computer troubleshooting, and occasional musical assistance (since he also works as organist and choirmaster at a parish in Manhattan).



Lisa Dunleavy-Jennings joined the office staff in 1998 as **Assistant Coordinator of Marriage Preparation**. She and Kevin Jennings, her husband of 26 years, teach “Part One” marriage preparation classes (full days and evening sessions) throughout the Archdiocese. She works to recruit & train new teaching couples, and she handles all the “Part One” and Four-Evening schedules each year, working with presenters and sites to make sure that all logistics are met. Most of all, she strives to ensure that the engaged couples are given a very positive experience—so that they will choose to continue attending church, or perhaps even open up to the possibility of coming back to the Church.

Marriage Preparation

The Marriage Preparation program of the Archdiocese of New York is designed to introduce couples to the beauty of the Church's teachings on the Sacrament of Marriage and to assist couples in developing relationship skills that will set the foundation for a life-long, joy-filled marriage.

Our Archdiocesan *Partners in Life and Love* marriage preparation program consists of two full-day courses or four evening sessions.

1. "Part One" covers skills important to relationships, such as communication, dealing with in-laws, and talking about parenting and finances.
2. "Part Two" gives a thorough grounding in church teaching, including a thorough exposition of the wedding vows, an in-depth look at sexuality and the culture, and the reality of love as a vehicle of God's action in the world.
3. Part One or Part Two can be taken first—we do not require a particular sequence.
4. In 2010, **nearly 2400 couples** participated in the Two-Day course.
5. The course is also available in a four-evening format, where the Part One and Part Two topics are evenly distributed among the four sessions. In 2010, **over 700 couples** participated in the Four-Evening course.
6. Additionally, occasional newsletters on marriage and pro-life events are emailed to **nearly 18,000** past and present marriage preparation registrants.

We offer classes year-round, throughout the Archdiocese. Please see our scheduling booklet, *Preparation Programs for the Sacrament of Marriage*, for additional details, and dates and locations of classes. Couples are encouraged to register for our courses online, at <http://flrl.org/>

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Marriage Enrichment



Nancy A. Rizzi has worked in the Family Life Office for 15 years—four years as Respect Life Coordinator, and 11 years in her current position as **Coordinator of Marriage Enrichment**. She has developed a one-day “Celebrate Marriage” program that is presented throughout the Archdiocese in parishes and retreat centers (which is also available in Spanish—see pp. 20-21). This one-day program can also be presented over the course of a few evening or afternoon sessions, depending upon the needs of the parish.

- The goal of “Celebrate Marriage” is to revitalize Christian marriages and help couples recapture their joy, intimacy and spirituality. The day provides married couples “quality time” free of distraction, to work together through the blessings and challenges of marriage. With society’s pressures and the demands on families, the “Celebrate Marriage” program is critical in providing hope, healing, support and guidance to married couples.
- The day consists of presentations based on all aspects of marriage: from enhancing communication and listening skills to the gift of marital sexuality and living the Sacrament of Marriage in today’s world. A renewal of wedding vows takes place at the end of the day; evenings and afternoon sessions are also offered.
- Nancy and her husband, Jim, have over 31 years’ experience conducting Catholic workshops and seminars on marriage and family and have assisted four other dioceses in implementing the Celebrate Marriage enrichment days.
- They also present Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends in the Archdiocese and have a trained team of couples and priests working in the program.

If a parish is interested in hosting a Celebrate Marriage day or movie night, or for more information on any of these events, please contact:

Nancy A. Rizzi, Coordinator

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Natural Family Planning (NFP) Coordinator

The Family Life Respect Life Office is currently looking for an NFP coordinator.

NFP coordinates the promotion efforts for all four Natural Family Planning methods offered throughout the Archdiocese (Billings, Couple to Couple League, Creighton, Archdiocesan Sympto-thermal). The coordinator organizes events and workshops for both general audiences as well as clergy on issues regarding NFP, fertility and contraception alternatives that not only promise more effective and successful rates but also strengthen marriages and families.

The NFP apostolate is dedicated to helping men and women live in harmony with God's plan for life and love, while strengthening marriages and families.

1. Introductory classes in NFP are available in English or Spanish. These classes are available year-round in many locations throughout the Archdiocese.
2. These courses give healthy, ethical alternatives to couples struggling with infertility.
3. **Over 650 people attended an NFP course** in 2010.

For more information, please contact:

Natural Family Planning, Coordinator

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Kim Burdette, a previous elementary school teacher before moving to New York, joined the Family Life staff in 2009 as the new **Chastity Education Coordinator** for the Archdiocese of New York. In her new position, Ms. Burdette's focus is on Chastity Education for Middle School students and their parents. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from James Madison University and a Masters Degree from Towson University in Elementary Education.

In her position as Chastity Education Coordinator, Kim travels throughout parishes and schools within the Archdiocese giving chastity talks for teens and their parents. Through these talks, Kim not only shares her experiences of living a pure life, but seeks to empower parents to take on their role as primary educators of their children. Kim also serves as a resource for parents, teachers, clergy, and teens, creating materials that will help them promote the joyful message of chastity. With her strong educational background, extensive presentation skills, and love for her Catholic faith, Kim looks forward to bringing enthusiasm, creativity and a passion for Chastity Education to all groups that she has an opportunity to speak with.

The Chastity Education program of the Archdiocese of New York, new to the Family Life / Respect Life Office in the 2009-2010 year, is being implemented to formally promote the Catholic teaching of God's Gift of Human Sexuality.

Through our Chastity Education program we hope to:

- provide a fuller awareness of God's plan for sexuality
- focus and increase Vocations to the Priesthood, Consecrated Religious Life, and Marriage (which has been dwindling in recent years).
- reduce /eliminate the occurrence of pre-marital sexual relations, unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted disease

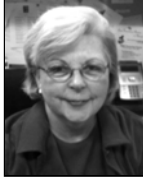
For more information, please contact:

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Eileen Murphy, a former Catholic school teacher and Catechist, has been teaching Parenting workshops for almost three decades, having started the first parish-based Education for Parenting Center in the Archdiocese in the early 1980's. Eileen came onto the Family Life Office staff in 1987, as one of four itinerant Regional Associate Directors, starting up Parenting Centers, making presentations, and conducting workshops. She continues that work today as **Coordinator of Education for Parenting programs**, traveling throughout the Archdiocese. She also offers Leadership Training in Education for Parenting for parish leaders, for which she writes programs, provides support, troubleshoots, and coordinates the work of the Parenting Center directors.

The mission of Education for Parenting is to articulate the sacredness of our parental vocation to raise children to be spiritually, morally, emotionally, socially, intellectually, and physically healthy, responsible Catholics with strong faith. Using presentations, workshops, parish **Parenting Center weekly meetings** focused on parents with infants, toddlers and preschoolers, and Training Extension Network meetings for leaders, we

1. disseminate age-appropriate behavior and developmental information for each growth level from birth throughout the young adult years,
2. teach parents user-friendly non-violent discipline skills, and the family relationship skills of communication and conflict resolution,
3. create support networks in the parish community to encourage parents and support parenting leaders throughout the far-flung areas of the Archdiocese.

These activities allow us the opportunity to evangelize and provide on-the-job spiritual nurturing for families raising children, the current and future followers of Christ and members/leaders of our Church. **There are 33 Parish-based Parenting Centers.**

For more information, please contact:

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Christina Schuerger, L.C.S.W., born and raised on Long Island, New York, joined the Family Life Office in April of 2009. She received her undergraduate degree with a major in Social Work at the Franciscan University of Steubenville and went on to receive her Master's Degree at Hunter College School of Social Work in 2003. Christina has previously worked in foster care and outpatient mental health providing social work and counseling services to the community and is bi-lingual. She additionally has a private practice providing Catholic counseling to individuals, couples and their families.

1. The role of the Pastoral Bereavement Facilitator is to bring those who are suffering closer to Our Lord through prayer and parish based **bereavement support groups**. Many of our volunteers have been called to this work through their own experiences of loss and have been inspired by the Holy Spirit to give of themselves in this area, in service to the Church.
2. **There are 51 such parish based bereavement support groups** throughout the Archdiocese.
3. Additionally, the Bereavement program offers training and support for new leaders of these support groups.
4. There is also considerable Post-Abortion outreach, including Project Rachel, and work with the Sisters of Life and their *Hope and Healing After Abortion* retreats. The **Bereavement Coordinator** connects priests, laity, clinicians and post-abortive men and women to the proper referral service (*e.g.* individual counseling, trained Project Rachel priests, and/or support groups and weekend retreats).

For more information, please contact:

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Carmen Noschese, M.S. M.F.T., joined the staff of the Family Life Office in 2006 as the **Coordinator of Outreach to the Separated & Divorced**. She instructs volunteers to the ministry who then become facilitators of parish-based support groups. They are shown the love of Christ so as to communicate that to others. It's the desire of those involved to assist individuals suffering the traumatic experience of separation and/or divorce in a haven of support and non-judgment. The individuals who take part have the opportunity to receive emotional support within a safe environment in which to overcome their crisis. In addition to her work with those afflicted by divorce or separation, she has extensive experience working with individuals, families, and groups as a therapist in private practice.

Many individuals experience a profoundly deep isolation as they go through the stress of a separation or divorce. They may become overwhelmed by feelings of not belonging, or of being cut off from God, the church, and their family.

The Archdiocesan Outreach to the Separated and Divorced provides understanding and a caring presence during this time, through ongoing parish-based bimonthly support groups. We offer information and education on a number of topics, including

1. the grieving process
2. coping skills
3. Church teaching on annulments

There are 13 such support groups in the Archdiocese.

For more information, please contact:

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Patrick Langrell is the **Coordinator of Young Adult Outreach**. Originally from Sydney, Australia, Patrick graduated from The University of Notre Dame (Australia) in 2009 with a degree in Philosophy and a minor in Theology. He recently moved to New York to serve the young adult community. Prior to his work in New York, Patrick worked extensively with the young adult community in the Archdiocese of Sydney, organizing a variety of events and initiatives. He founded Theology on Tap in Sydney and other cities around the country, and he played a crucial role in the planning of World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney, as Pope Benedict XVI and pilgrims from around the world visited his country.

The Coordinator of Young Adult Outreach connects Catholic young professionals to resources, events, and likeminded peers, while simultaneously developing new initiatives in order to build the future of the Church. Three years since its conception, this unique position has become a vital platform of evangelism to New York's young adults. To the many young professionals moving to New York City, the Coordinator serves as an initial contact, guiding them as they discover the many opportunities to develop their gifts and form community. To the vast and dynamic young adult community, he is a central communicator and networker, facilitating growth and unity through personal relationships. With a powerful communications infrastructure at its disposal—including thousands of contacts and a global website, **catholicnyc.com**—Young Adult Outreach utilizes powerful and well-branded marketing tools in order to attract young professionals seeking Catholic resources. Additionally, the coordinator creates and promotes unique events that respond to the particular and timely needs of the greater community. By attending events and organizing meetings, the Coordinator becomes a highly visible leader in the Catholic community of New York and advises clergy and Church leaders who wish to tailor their ministries to the needs of young adults.

For more information, please contact:

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Edward T. Mechmann, Esq., is married with three children, and is a graduate of Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx, Columbia College (BA), Harvard Law School (JD) and St. Joseph's Seminary Institute of Religious Studies (MA). He has been with the Family Life/Respect Life Office since 1994, serving presently as the **Assistant Director**, and the coordinator the Office's activity in public policy education and advocacy. Previously, he was the coordinator of marriage preparation programs from 1995 to 2005. Ed is the Chairman of the Diocesan Respect Life Coordinators and a member of the Public Policy Committee for the New York State Catholic Conference. In addition to the work he does for the Family Life Office, he is also the current Director of the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Office.

- The public policy arm of the Family Life Office works to provide education to Catholic parishioners on a broad range of public policy issues, and to influence legislation on the national and state levels. Our mission in this is to promote the Gospel of Life by defending human life at all stages, and promoting and strengthening marriage and family life.
- We work closely with the statewide Catholic Advocacy Network, a program of the New York State Catholic Conference, which organizes and mobilizes grassroots email advocacy in support of the positions of the Church on public policy matters.
- We also participate in initiatives from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Pro-Life Secretariat, the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, and other pro-life, pro-family advocates.

For more information, please contact:

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Denise D'Oleo was born in the Dominican Republic and has been married for 15 years. She is a Family and Couple Therapist. She became the **Spanish Programs Coordinator** for the second time in 2008, having held the position previously in 2003-2004. (Her initial tenure was interrupted by a four-year return to the Dominican Republic.) She oversees the following programs in Spanish:

- **Marriage Preparation (Pre-Cana)** is a two-day program. “Part One” focuses on the call to the Sacrament of Marriage, self-knowledge, communication skills, conflict resolution, decision-making, sexuality, and family spirituality. “Part Two” covers the Sacramental nature of Marriage; we explain the significance of the questions of consent, and the Moral teaching of the Church regarding Natural Family Planning and other themes. The Spanish Pre-Cana program is running in 13 parishes. We are looking forward to working more closely with pastors to update the program, as well as developing a program to encourage couples to seek to convalidate their civil marriage. We are also in the process of recruiting and training new presenting couples. **Over 300 couples** attended marriage preparation in Spanish in fiscal year 2008.
- The goal of **Marriage Enrichment** is to offer to Hispanic couples concrete guidance and support to live a committed, faith-filled marriage. The one-day workshop is very beneficial to couples of all ages and years married. The enrichment day focuses on communication, spirituality, sexuality and practical insights to living a joy-filled marriage in today’s world. **60 couples participated** in marriage enrichment in Spanish in 2009.
- Since 2006 we have offered a **Pro-Life Congress** to educate Hispanic Catholics on pro-life and pro-family topics.
- Additionally, **we offer assistance and materials in Spanish for the other programs of the Family Life Office:** Bereavement, Project Rachel, Outreach to the Separated and Divorced, Education for Parenting, and Respect Life.

For more information, please contact:

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Denise D'Oleo nació en la República Dominicana y ha estado casada por 15 años. Es Psicóloga Clínica, con especialidad en Terapia de Familia y Pareja. Comenzó a trabajar como **Coordinadora de los Programas en Español** por segunda vez en el 2008. Estuvo desempeñando previamente esta posición del 2003 al 2004. (Su primer período fue interrumpido por cuatro años al retornar a su país de origen). Está encargada de los siguientes programas en Español:

- **Preparación Matrimonial (Pre-Cana)** Es un programa que se imparte en dos días. La primera parte se enfoca en el llamado al Sacramento del Matrimonio, conocimiento personal, destrezas de comunicación, resolución de conflictos, toma de decisiones, sexualidad y espiritualidad en la familia. El contenido del segundo día está basado en la parte Teológica del Sacramento del Matrimonio y allí exploramos las razones que mueven a las parejas a casarse por la Iglesia Católica. Hablamos sobre la importancia de los votos de consentimiento, así como de la Enseñanza Moral de la Iglesia en temas relacionados con la Planificación Natural de la familia, entre otros. Nuestro Programa Arquidiocesano está funcionando en 13 parroquias. En este momento nuestro esfuerzo está canalizado en trabajar más de cerca con los párrocos para fortalecer el programa, así como en el desarrollo de otros programas dirigidos a parejas que buscan convalidar su matrimonio civil. También estamos en el proceso de entrenar más parejas presentadoras.
- **Enriquecimiento Matrimonial** La meta de este programa es ofrecer a las parejas hispanas, guía y apoyo práctico para vivir un compromiso matrimonial basado en la Fe. El taller es muy beneficio para parejas de todas las edades y tiempo de casados, ya sea su matrimonio civil o por la Iglesia. El Enriquecimiento Matrimonial se enfoca en temas como: Comunicación, Espiritualidad, Sexualidad e ideas prácticas para vivir un matrimonio lleno de alegría en el mundo actual. 60 parejas participaron en los cursos de Enriquecimiento Matrimonial en el 2009.
- **Congreso Pro-Vida** Desde el 2006 hemos ofrecido a la población Hispana un Congreso con temas Pro-Vida y Pro-familia, para educar a nuestra gente sobre temas como: Síndrome Post-Aborto, Castidad, Políticas Públicas y los Beneficios de la PNF para la vida matrimonial, entre otros. Este año el IV Congreso será el 24 de octubre en el Cardinal Hayes (Bronx) y el 25 en el Convento Franciscano de Graymoor. Para el próximo año vamos a organizar además un Segundo Congreso, específicamente dirigido a parejas, cuyo objetivo es fortalecer esta relación primaria, base de la vida familiar.
- Adicionalmente, **ofrecemos asistencia y materiales en Español para otros programas de la Oficina de Vida de Familia:** Duelo, Proyecto Raquel, Ministerio de Separados y Divorciados, Educación para padres y Respeto a la Vida.

Para mayor información, por favor contacte a:

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