

BUILDS and forms a team who minister to those called to the vocation of marriage and family.



RATE THE FOLLOWING:

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

- ___ 1. Healthy marriage is a stated priority in our parish.
- ___ 2. Our parish provides ongoing catechesis, education and formation, in light of the authentic teaching of the Church, on why marriage is the union of one man and one woman and why this institution needs to be promoted and protected in society.
- ___ 3. We seek to build a culture of confidence and courage that bears witness, in all areas of life and society, to the truth and beauty of marriage.
- ___ 4. We have an active Marriage Ministry Team or similar parish committee and provide them with effective formation and training.
- ___ 5. We actively seek participation of the newly married in our parish.
- ___ 6. Our parish allocates money and other resources to the best of its ability to promote healthy marriage.
- ___ 7. Our parish supports marriage in the larger community.
- ___ 8. Our parish is able to recruit volunteers who are faithful witnesses to the Church's teaching on marriage and family.
- ___ 9. Our volunteers are given regular marriage-oriented educational/formational opportunities.
- ___ 10. Our pastoral leadership looks at all parish ministries to make sure they are marriage friendly.
- ___ 11. We seek opportunities to collaborate with other parishes to effectively minister to marriage.
- ___ 12. We are able to access our Diocesan Family Life Office, National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers (www.NACFLM.org), and web-sites such as United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's (www.ForYourMarriage.org)
- ___ 13. We provide access to resources dealing with various cultures and ethnic groups particularly those affecting marriage.
- ___ 14. Make available the study guide the US Bishop's Pastoral Letter, Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan.
- ___ 15. Parish includes marriage prayers, rituals, events and bulletin inserts through the year.
- ___ 16. Parishioners are encouraged to write to legislators about marriage issues.
- ___ 17. Leadership training is provided for support group facilitators.

"We are grateful, too, for all those who work with young people and engaged couples to establish good marriages, who help married couples to grow in love and strengthen their union, and who help those in crisis to resolve their problems and bring healing to their lives.

From Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan

Top three priorities for BUILDING Leadership:

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

Total Score

out of possible 51

FORMS young people in the beliefs and virtues necessary for healthy relationships, including marriage



RATE THE FOLLOWING:

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

FORMING Youth

- ___ 1. Our parish provides programs and effective catechesis that help youth and young adults discuss, understand and defend the unique meaning of marriage in the face of contemporary challenges.
- ___ 2. Faith formation programs and catechetical curriculum include components at every level that address healthy relationships and the vocation of marriage.
- ___ 3. The beauty of sexuality and the Catholic Church's teachings on marriage are taught effectively to our youth.
- ___ 4. Youth activities include efforts to honor married couples in our parish, i.e., hosting a "Senior Prom" for couples married 40 years or more, etc.
- ___ 5. Post-confirmation program for high school seniors about the Sacrament of Marriage is offered.
- ___ 6. Our parish has a strong emphasis on remote preparation to help parents properly form their children and teens for marriage.
- ___ 7. Married couples are sought out as catechists.
- ___ 8. Couples witness the joys and struggles of the Sacrament of Marriage to the youth.
- ___ 9. Theology of the Body is taught to youth and young adults.
- ___ 10. Fertility awareness/appreciation is taught.

FORMING Young Adults

- ___ 11. Our parish provides young adults with positive opportunities for growth in Relationships and Vocation.
- ___ 12. Young adults have activities and catechesis available.
- ___ 13. Parish utilizes opportunities to catechize adolescents and young adults on the meaning of covenant, sacrifice, faithfulness and openness to life.

"Proximate preparation begins around puberty and involves a more specific preparation for the sacraments, including an understanding of healthy relationships, sexuality, the virtue of chastity, and responsible parenthood."

From Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan

Top three priorities for FORMING Youth and Young Adults:

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

Total Score

out of possible 39

PREPARES couples to celebrate and live a Christian sacramental marriage



RATE THE FOLLOWING:

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

PREPARING for Sacramental Marriage

- ___ 1. A pre-marital inventory is utilized by all couples preparing for sacramental marriage.
- ___ 2. A parish or diocesan preparation program is utilized for couples seeking marriage the Church.
- ___ 3. A parish or diocesan preparation program is utilized for couples when one or both have had a previous marriage(s) which addresses their special areas of concern, i.e., closure of the first marriage, blended families, etc.
- ___ 4. A parish or diocesan preparation program is utilized for couples seeking convalidation.
- ___ 5. If parish based, all Ministers to the Engaged are up to date with the current diocesan and parish policies.
- ___ 6. Ministers to the Engaged gather at least annually to enrich their ministry and to clarify questions.
- ___ 7. Newly married couples are mentored after the wedding.
- ___ 8. Church teaching and instruction in a natural family planning method is provided for all couples preparing for marriage.

CELEBRATING Sacramental Marriage

- ___ 9. Our parish assumes a posture of welcome to all couples seeking to be married in the Church.
- ___ 10. Engaged couples are brought forward for a blessing during the time of marriage preparation.
- ___ 11. Wedding planning assistance is provided for couples planning a wedding celebration in our parish.

“By the time of immediate preparation, the couple has developed a conviction that God is calling them to marriage with a particular person. Prayer, especially for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the help of wise mentors are crucial in this discernment process. Discernment also involves an honest assessment of qualities that are foundational for the marriage. These include an ability to make and keep a commitment, the desire for a lifelong, faithful relationship, and openness to children. The couple will also want to reflect on the values they share, their ability to communicate, and agreement on significant issues.”

From Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan

Top three priorities for PREPARING for Sacramental Marriage:

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

Total Score

out of possible 33

AFFIRMS the gift of Children, the vocation of Parenthood, and helps build a Culture of Life SUPPORTS parents and families in their role as a domestic church.



RATE THE FOLLOWING:

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

CREATING A Culture of Life

- ___ 1. Our parish fosters awareness of marriage between one man and one woman as the fundamental institution for life, including effective catechesis and education on the gift of children, the unique and indispensable place of mothers and fathers, and the inseparability of the unitive and procreative meanings of married love.
- ___ 2. Baptisms are periodically conducted during the weekend liturgy to affirm the gift of children.
- ___ 3. In all aspects of ministry, our parish considers the role of family and the gift of children.
- ___ 4. Opportunities are available for mothers, fathers and children to learn about fertility awareness and appreciation together.
- ___ 5. Our parish sponsors opportunities to pray for mothers and their unborn children.
- ___ 6. Our parish fosters awareness of the need to restore legal protection to the lives of unborn children and to safeguard in law the lives of those who are chronically ill, disabled, or dying.
- ___ 7. A Spiritual Adoption program is in place that encourages families to pray for the unborn.
- ___ 8. Natural Family Planning Instruction is available and promoted to parents, especially at times of transitions, i.e. baptismal preparation.
- ___ 9. Parents are publicly honored for their dedication and commitment to their children, especially in conjunction with Mother's Day, Father's Day, First Communion, Confirmation, Graduation, Catechetical Sunday, etc.

- ___ 10. Faith formation programs and catechetical curriculum include components that address the dignity of the human person from conception to a natural death.

PARENTING in the Domestic Church

- ___ 11. Mothers and fathers are given resources and encouragement to model healthy relations for their children.
- ___ 12. Parenting classes are periodically offered.
- ___ 13. Contact information is published for mothers and father who are tempted to abuse their child(ren).
- ___ 14. Sacramental Preparation is utilized as a time to teach parenting skills and the understanding of their role as primary educators of children. (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation)
- ___ 15. Mothers and fathers are invited to be actively involved in their children's religious education.
- ___ 16. Non-Catholic and/or non-custodial mothers and fathers are included in parent mailings and invitations.
- ___ 17. Our parish provides opportunities for parents to properly form their children and teens for marriage.
- ___ 18. Parish has bulletin inserts that offer help and ideas for evangelization in the family.
- ___ 19. A family perspective has been adopted by the parish considering the needs of the family whenever new programs are initiated.

“Children are a gift in a myriad of ways. They bring joy even in the midst of heartaches; they give added direction to the lives of their parents. Children, who are the fruit of love and meaningful commitment, are a cause of love and meaning.”

“The procreative meaning of marriage involves not only the conception of children, but also their upbringing and education, including spiritual formation in the life of love. This formation can take place only within a human community formed in love. The loving communion of the spouses is the primary context in which children are both conceived and brought up in love.”

From Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan

Top three priorities for CREATING a Culture of Life :

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

Total Score

out of possible 57



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.

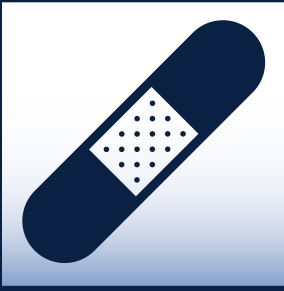
- ___ 13. Signage in the parish is displayed on being a “Marriage-Building” parish & What Have You Done For Your Marriage Today?
- ___ 14. Parish retreats for married couples are offered at least annually.
- ___ 15. Practical bulletin inserts promoting marriage include prayers, customs, rituals and traditions 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. _____	_____



PROVIDES CARE to couples and families in times of difficulty and loss

RATE THE FOLLOWING:

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

Pastoral CARING for those in Need

"... We bishops urge couples in crisis to turn to the Lord for help. We also encourage them to make use of the many resources, including programs and ministries offered by the Church, that can help to save marriages, even those in serious difficulty."

*From Marriage
Life in the Divine Plan*

Pastoral CARING for times of Difficulties

- 1. Priests and deacons have intervention skills to help in initial care for struggling marriages.
- 2. A pastoral plan or "Marriage Care" is in place for couples who come to us with problems.
- 3. Someone on staff is knowledgeable to make good counseling referrals to pro-marriage counselors, Retrouvaille, etc.
- 4. Couples are supported through the adjustments of pregnancy and new parenting.
- 5. Couples struggling with infertility are supported and given guidance that conforms with Catholic teaching.
- 6. Couples are supported through the adoption process and beyond.
- 7. Support for those in 2nd marriages/ blended families is available.
- 8. Education and support is available for pornography and substance abuse addictions and financial difficulties.
- 9. Partnerships exist with other parishes/ cluster for assisting hurting marriages.
- 10. Copies of USCCB's When I call for Help pamphlet are available.

- 11. Domestic violence hot-line number is published in bulletin. 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
- 12. Post-abortion healing resources are advertised. www.hopeafterabortion.org
- 13. Support is given to families experiencing military deployment and assisted through the reintegration process.
- 14. A pastoral plan is developed to assist those couples and families experiencing concern about immigration issues.

Pastoral CARING for times of Loss

- 15. Bereavement care is available for those who have lost a spouse.
- 16. Couples are supported through loss of pregnancy, miscarriage, stillbirth.
- 17. Couples are supported through the loss of child.
- 18. Parents are supported when a child says they are struggling with same sex attraction.

Total Score



out of possible 54

Top three priorities for Pastoral CARING for those in need:

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

OFFERS HEALING to separated and divorced spouses and their families



RATE THE FOLLOWING:

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

Divorce-Healing for Spouses

- 1. A support ministry for persons going through the initial trauma of separation and divorce is provided or one available elsewhere is advertised.
- 2. Divorce support programs continue after the initial trauma with catechesis for persons moving through the grief process.
- 3. Child care is provided free during training and programs.
- 4. A retreat program is available periodically for the divorced.
- 5. Annulment education is provided periodically to inform divorced persons how to proceed with the healing process of an annulment.
- 6. Annulment support ministers are available to assist those going through the annulment process.
- 7. Annual healing Mass and healing ritual is sponsored for the separated and divorced.
- 8. Divorced and single parents are included in prayers of the faithful.
- 9. Support for single parents is provided.

- 10. Leadership training is provided for support group facilitators.
- 11. The Pastoral Team includes divorced persons who have journeyed the path and can encourage reconciliation and support through appropriate programs.
- 12. Bulletin announcements include programs for divorced persons available in the community.
- 13. Parish packets explaining available resources for divorce programs are provided to the office staff to answer inquiries.
- 14. Parish website is linked to www.nacsd.org.

Divorce-Healing for Children

- 15. Support groups are available for children of divorce.
- 16. Retreat program for teens of divorce are provided.

“We understand the pain of those for whom divorce seemed the only recourse... We also offer encouragement to those who have divorced and remarried civilly... We encourage divorced persons who wish to marry in the Catholic Church to seek counsel about the options that exist to remedy their situation, including the suitability of a declaration of nullity.”

From Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan

Top three priorities for Divorce HEALING for Spouses and Children:

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

Total Score

out of possible 48



CELEBRATES the vocation of marriage in worship and community life

RATE THE FOLLOWING:

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

“Pope Benedict XVI explains how, in the Eucharist, the very meaning of marriage is transfigured: “the imagery of marriage between God and Israel is now realized in a way previously inconceivable: it had meant standing in God’s presence, but now it becomes union with God through sharing in Jesus’ self-gift, sharing in his body and blood.”

*From Marriage
Life in the Divine Plan*

- ___ 1. Our parish regularly prays that marriage, as the permanent and exclusive union of one man and one woman, be protected and promoted in our society and culture.
- ___ 2. Monthly “Marriage-Building” Sunday is established to celebrate anniversaries, renew marriage vows, bless the engaged and newly married, and pray for those with difficulties, etc.
- ___ 3. Homilies are regularly given about the joys and importance of marriage as well as the threat to marriage when appropriate readings lend themselves to marriage.
- ___ 4. Petitions at Mass regularly include marriage.
- ___ 5. Our parish regularly prays for couples preparing for marriage, those who are married, and are celebrating anniversaries.
- ___ 6. Our parish regularly prays for those whose marriages that have faced difficulties such as separation, divorce, widowhood and distance.
- ___ 7. Couples are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Eucharist side by side as a couple.
- ___ 8. Newly married couples come forward at Mass for a parish blessing.
- ___ 9. Couples are used for the various ministries in the parish, i.e. greeters, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers.
- ___ 10. Homilies often connect Scripture with Marriage and the Church’s Theology of covenantal relationship.
- ___ 11. In-home resources are available to help families pray at home.

Total Score

out of possible 33

Top three priorities for WORSHIPING and Prayer:

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