

St. JOHN PAUL II
FOUNDATION



St. JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION

A national Catholic apostolate proclaiming the Good News about life and family through education and formation.

WWW.FORLIFEANDFAMILY.ORG



CONVERGING ROADS

WHERE HEALTH CARE ETHICS AND
MEDICINE CONVERGE



TOGETHER IN HOLINESS

WHERE SPOUSES DISCOVER GOD'S PLAN
FOR THEIR FAMILY



SHEPHERD'S HEART

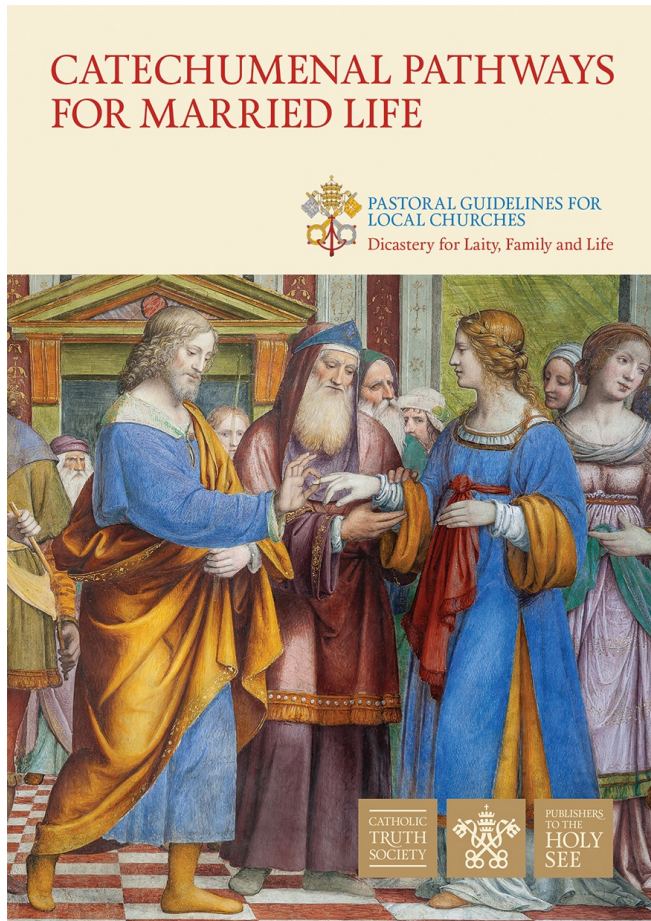
WHERE CLERGY EMBRACE CHRIST'S HEART
FOR LIFE AND FAMILY

GOALS

- To explicate the document *Catechumenal Pathways for Married Life*
- To articulate how the catechumenal process can provide inspiration for a marriage catechumenate
- To share a unique resource that provides ongoing marriage mystagogy to spouses

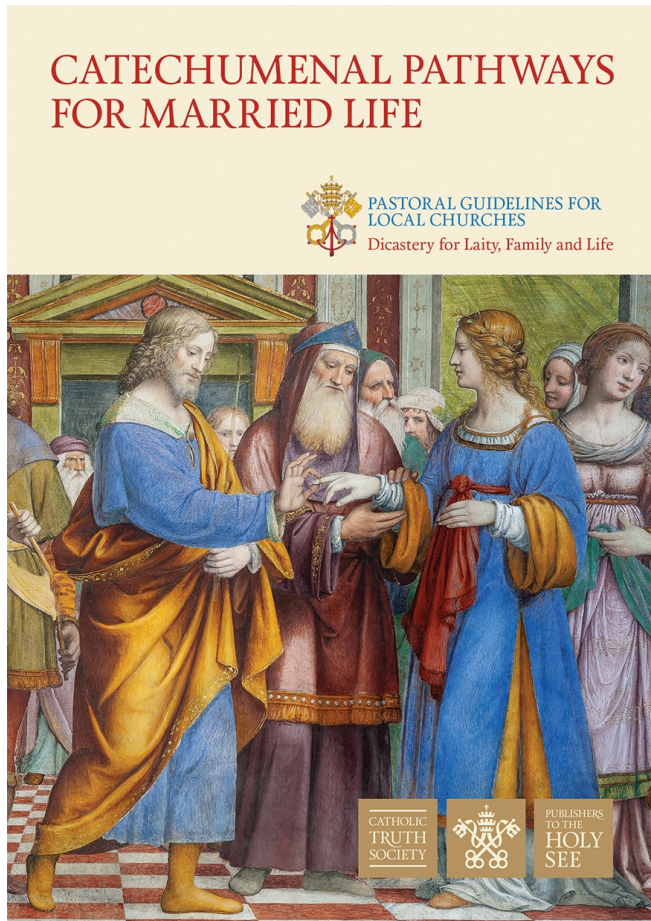


CATECHUMENAL PATHWAYS FOR MARRIED LIFE



- 2022 Document of the Vatican Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life
- Responds to the concern of Pope Francis for a marriage catechumenate
- Calls for renewed pastoral care and accompaniment of spouses

CATECHUMENAL PATHWAYS FOR MARRIED LIFE



- In continuity with Pope St. John Paul II's call for a catechumenal process for those preparing for marriage (*Familiaris consortio*, 66-69)
- Follows the stages of the baptismal catechumenate
- Marriage mystagogy in which spouses are accompanied through the first few years of marriage

THE LEGACY OF ST. JOHN PAUL II



“In order that the family may be ever more a true community of love, it is necessary that all its members should be helped and trained in their responsibilities as they face the new problems that arise, in mutual service, and in active sharing in family life. This holds true especially for young families, which, finding themselves in a context of new values and responsibilities, are more vulnerable ...”

John Paul II, *Familiaris consortio*, 69

THE CALL OF POPE FRANCIS



“I would like to stress the need for a ‘new catechumenate’ for marriage preparation. ... [J]ust as the catechumenate is part of the sacramental process for the baptism of adults, so too may the preparation for marriage form an integral part of the whole sacramental process of marriage ...”

THE CALL OF POPE FRANCIS



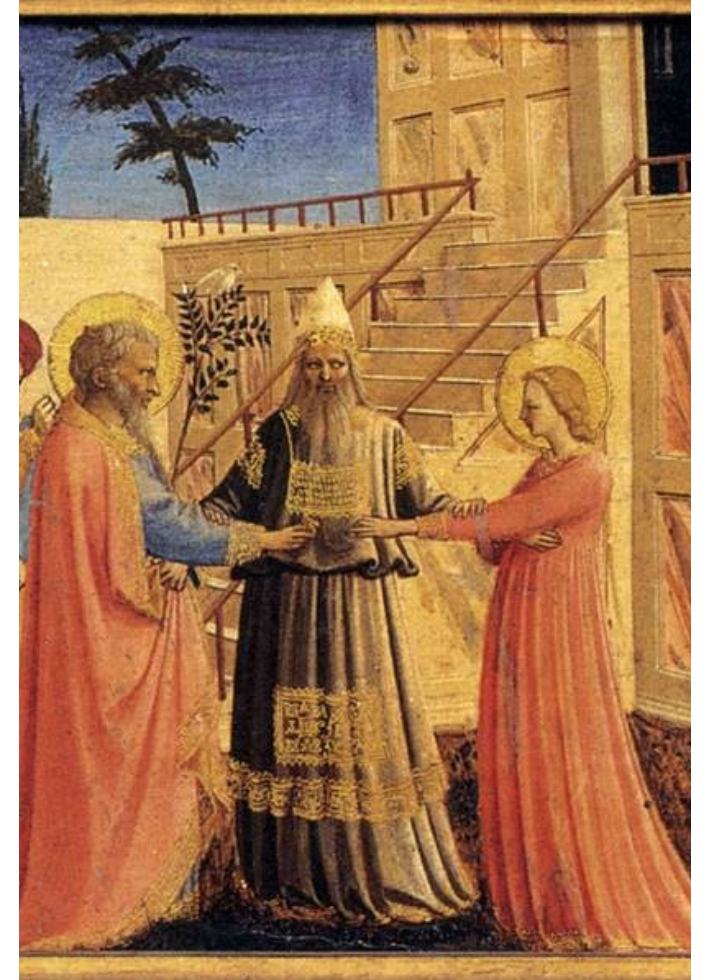
“A second remedy is that of helping the newlyweds to follow up their journey in the faith and in the Church, also after the marriage celebration. It is necessary to identify, with courage and creativity, a formation plan for young married couples, with initiatives aimed at increasing their awareness of the sacrament they have received.”

Francis Address to Roman

REASONS FOR A MARRIAGE CATECHUMENATE

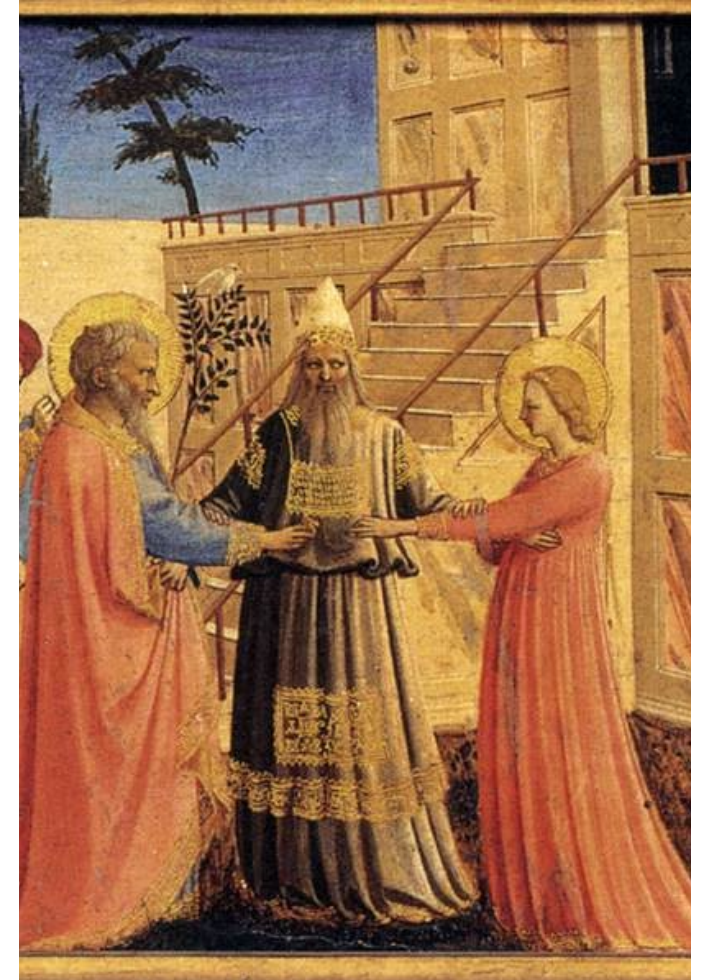
““The catechumenate can inspire new methods for faith renewal in every age, because it proposes a type of accompaniment for people – pedagogical, gradual, and ritualized – which always retains its effectiveness. ... It aims to let the mystery of sacramental grace resonate among the spouses, since it belongs to them by virtue of the sacrament: it seeks to bring to life the presence of Christ in them and among them”

- *Catechumenal Pathways*, 5



THREE PRINCIPLES FOR PASTORAL RENEWAL

- **Interconnectedness:** “The future of the world passes through the family” (John Paul II, *Familiaris consortio*, 75) (*Pathways*, 12)
- **Synodality:** Emphasizes the co-responsibility of spouses and their families for the Church’s mission of holiness and evangelization (*Pathways*, 13)
- **Continuity:** Stresses that marriage is a vocation which gradually unfolds over the course of a lifetime (*Pathways*, 14)



PHASES AND STAGES

- **Precatechumenal Phase:**
Remote preparation (*Pathways*, 27-47)
- **Catechumenal Phase:**
Proximate and immediate preparation (*Pathways*, 48-73)
- **Accompaniment:** Marriage mystagogy (*Pathways*, 74-86)



ACCOMPANIMENT DURING FIRST YEARS OF MARRIAGE



“The entire process should not be understood as an isolated act, but rather as the entry into a ‘permanent state,’ which therefore requires a unique ‘ongoing formation’ involving reflection, dialogue and help from the Church. For this reason, the first few years of married life should be ‘accompanied’...”

Catechumenal Pathways, 74

MARRIAGE MYSTAGOGY

“Ultimately, mystagogical marriage catechesis... addresses the following invitation to the couple: ‘Become what you are! You are now spouses; therefore, live more and more as spouses! The Lord has blessed and ‘filled’ your union with grace, so put that grace to good use!’ To accomplish this, spouses should be helped to feel the presence of Christ in the Sacrament of Marriage itself, not only in the other sacraments. Christ is present in their midst as spouses: He nourishes their relationship daily, and they can turn to Him together in prayer. The grace of the sacrament is at work in them and is manifested in their daily lives.”

Catechumenal Pathways, 77



THE *TOGETHER IN HOLINESS* FORMATION SERIES

- Year-round marriage enrichment for spouses
- An apostolate of friendship and hospitality
 - **Equips** spouses with formation, encouragement, support, and practical tools
 - **Encourages** couples to grow together in holiness as spouses
 - **Empowers** couples as parents to form their children in the Catholic faith



“THE CHURCH WILL HAVE TO INITIATE EVERYONE...INTO THIS ART OF ACCOMPANIMENT WHICH TEACHES US TO REMOVE OUR SANDALS BEFORE THE SACRED GROUND OF THE OTHER (CF. EX 3:5).”

- Pope Francis, *Evangelii gaudium*, 169

MEWH **Together in Holiness Trailer**

(Click to watch)

THEMES AND SERIES TITLES

Each year a different theme is explored as a series, drawing on the life, witness, and teaching of St. John Paul II who taught that the family is...

- **A Domestic Church**
- **A Community of Prayer**
- **A School of Virtue**
- **A School of Love**
- **A Seedbed of Vocations**
- **A Believing and Evangelizing Community**
- **An Image of the Trinity**



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Short, compelling videos**
- **Peer groups of spouses** who accompany each other in fellowship and formation
- **Host Couples** formed and supported by the St. John Paul II Foundation
- **Digital Guidebook** that includes the reflections and discussion questions
- **Bring it Home** segments that translate learning into living
- **Website** that serves as a portal to all videos, materials, and resources



FORMAT OF A CIRCLE GATHERING

A *Together in Holiness* Circle includes a Host Couple that facilitates and three to five participating couples

Spouses gather **seven times** throughout the year for:

- Meal and fellowship
- Opening prayer and Scripture reading
- Short video
- Group reflection and discussion
- Closing prayer



WHAT IS A HOST COUPLE?

- A **man** and **woman** united in the Sacrament of Marriage
- **Formed to facilitate** times of prayer and discussion
- **Models** a marriage striving for Christian virtue
- **Cultivates friendships** with other couples
- **Hospitable** and **encouraging**



WHAT IS INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION?

COUPLES WILL HAVE ACCESS TO:

Website with videos and resources

Digital Guidebook with discussion questions,
Bring it Home segments, and more!

A **Host Couple** who facilitate their Circle gatherings and have been formed by the St. John Paul II Foundation

Dedicated staff from the St. John Paul II Foundation to provide accompaniment throughout the journey



INQUIRE HERE



Scan the QR code to sign up for the
Together in Holiness Formation series!

For questions or more information,
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