

Missionaries to the Family

SHARE THE JOY OF MARRIED LIFE WITH OTHERS.
STUDY AND DEEPEN YOUR FAITH AS A COUPLE.
SERVE YOUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER.

"The family is placed at the heart of the great struggle between good and evil, between life and death, between love and all that is opposed to love."

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

We need people with generous, courageous hearts who are willing to be instruments in the hand of the Lord. We need people willing to answer the call to help change a life: "Here I am! Send me" (*Isaiah 6:8*).

Before sending his apostles to evangelize the world, Christ carefully prepared them. Similarly, we must prepare people for the new evangelization, which "depends in great part on the Church of the home" (*Pope St. John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio, #52*). We need to form Missionaries to the Family.

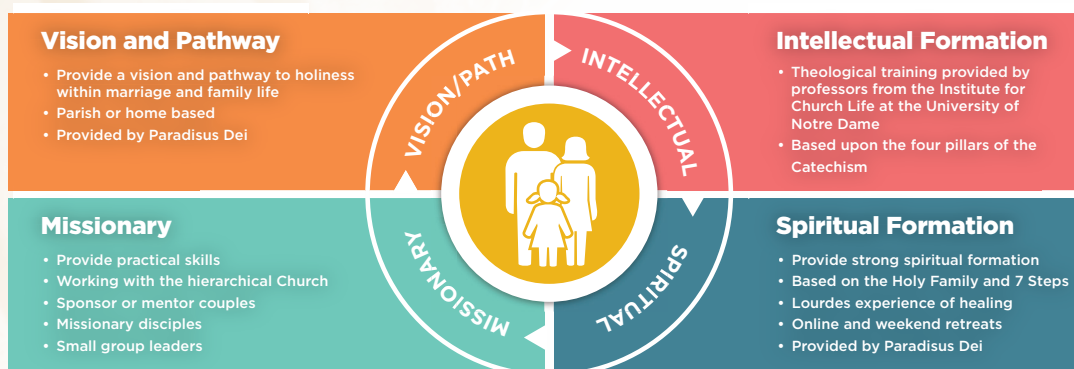


"We were searching for a ministry that we could do together while raising our children. Missionaries to the Family fit the bill perfectly. Maybe the most important thing we learned from formation is that becoming a Missionary is as much about living the Spirit of Nazareth in your own family as it is about being a missionary to others - 'What God wants to give through you he first wants to give to you.'"

— KARL & MEGAN, CLASS OF 2021

MISSIONARIES TO THE FAMILY FORMATION

To accomplish this goal, Paradisus Dei has entered into a unique partnership with professors from the Institute of Church Life at the University of Notre Dame to establish a rigorous, one-year formation program. Faithful to the Church's tradition, this comprehensive program includes intellectual and spiritual formation as well as formation in the practical skills necessary to be effective, fruitful missionaries.



"We accepted the invitation to become missionaries with the hope of impacting our community. We had no idea how profound a difference it would make in our lives. We have discovered a new appreciation for our faith, our vocations as husband, wife, father, and mother, and the importance of nurturing our spirit through prayer."

— BEN & KIM, CLASS OF 2022

FORMED & SENT SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIPS THE SPIRIT OF NAZARETH

Couples who complete the formation year are commissioned as Missionaries to the Family and sent out into the great mission field of the family in their local community and parish.

Missionaries to the Family are formed to imitate the Holy Family in practical ways based upon the 7 Steps to not only divorce-proof their marriage, but experience the joy of living authentic Catholic family life in their homes. It is a joy that is contagious and attractive and invites other families to "come and see" (John 1:29). By inviting others into their homes and lives through spiritual friendship, missionaries greatly impact their parish communities, one family at a time.

When a couple lives this reality of love, their home expands into a place of encounter where other couples can experience the presence of God as well. This is why missionaries have a specific focus on direct, personal accompaniment of other couples and of small groups within the home. By inviting others into their homes and lives through spiritual friendship, missionaries can share the joy they have found in discovering Christ hidden in their home.

"Missionaries has united us in a unique and special way. It has deepened our ability to give back at the parish level and also in the community. . . in preparing couples for marriage, engaging people in the office, with neighbors. We have been able to evangelize and teach others, to journey with them and share the warmth of our home."

— STEVE & LESLIE, CLASS OF 2020

MISSIONARY DETAILS

Missionaries to the Family are called to be a channel of grace to others. As such, Missionaries should be:

- In a stable, happy marriage
- In a canonical marriage
- In stable relationships with any children still in the home
- Able and willing to dedicate 2 hours per week to formation in the first year and to missionary work in subsequent years.

Important Dates:

- Program Launch: July 26-28, 2024, at the University of Notre Dame.
- Second Retreat: January 3-5, 2025, in Houston, Texas.
- Commissioning Retreat: August 8-10, 2025, at the University of Notre Dame.

For the Formation Class beginning July of 2024:

- Paradisus Dei will accept applications until May 15, 2024.
- Paradisus Dei will notify couples by May 31, 2024.
- Formation begins with the retreat on July 26-28, 2024.



"It is in the Holy Family ... that every Christian family must be reflected."

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

The Seven Steps

A PROVEN PATHWAY TO JOY

- 1 Honor your wedding vows.
- 2 Use money for others.
- 3 Give God some of your time.
- 4 Set your mind on things above.
- 5 Find God in yourself.
- 6 Find God in other people.
- 7 Practice superabundant mercy.

Missionaries to the Family

AN INITIATIVE TO REVITALIZE
THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

FOR MORE DETAILS,
OR TO APPLY,
CONTACT US.

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