

Missionaries to the Family

WELL-FORMED LAY COUPLES

FAMILY-TO-FAMILY EVANGELIZATION

TRAINED TO SERVE YOUR PARISH AND COMMUNITY



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.

“I think every pastor who dreams of an evangelizing parish dreams of something like Missionaries to the Family because we cannot be alone in evangelizing. To have parishioners well formed, who are able to articulate their vocation - the calling to marriage - both by witnessing to it in their married life, and articulating it - sharing it with others, sharing this gift - is something that I think every pastor would dream of.”

— FR. PETER DAMIAN,
ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH

“Having formed Missionaries to the Family, willing to serve my parish, creates an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to deepen the understanding of the beauty and power of the Sacrament of Marriage. Whether it's through Choice Wine programs in the home or Pre Cana retreats at the parish, formed Missionaries reveal to others the teaching and joy of the Catholic Church's vision for marriage and family life.”

— FR. DOMINIC COUTURIER,
OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION PARISH

FORMATION PROGRAM

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.

While the formation process for Missionaries covers quite a bit of ground in the retreats, emails, catechism reading, spiritual plan of life, and course work, there is a core message that we want to ensure is lived by missionary couples and then shared with others: the reality that God can be found and adored in their home! Though hidden, God was fully present in the home of Nazareth in the person of Christ, and, through Him, all families can discover God within their home!

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

- In a stable, happy, 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.

Cost:

- Tuition: \$5000/couple; Paradisus Dei covers \$2500 of this cost.
- Couples are asked to cover the remaining \$2500 plus travel to and from retreats.
- Parishes, dioceses, and foundations often choose to contribute to assist couples.
- Limited tuition scholarships are also available to couples.

SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIPS IN THE PARISH — IN THE HOME THE MODEL OF THE HOLY FAMILY

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.



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

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II



"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 SHOFNER, CLASS OF 2020



PARADISUS DEI®

Paradus Dei is a private association of the faithful based out of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas. Founded in 2001 by Steve Bollman, we exist to help families discover the superabundance of God within marriage and family life. Our programs are run each week in over 800 parishes primarily in the United States, but also across the globe. We currently have over 180 Missionary to the Family couples present in 23 dioceses. Paradus Dei is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization.

FOR MORE DETAILS
CONTACT US:

missionaries@paradusdei.org

281-974-3541

www.paradusdei.org