

The image features a vertical strip of a Gothic cathedral interior. The central focus is a large, multi-paned stained glass window with vibrant colors. Below the window is a statue of a figure, possibly an angel or saint, seated on a pedestal. The architecture is characterized by high, pointed arches and intricate stonework. The lighting is soft, highlighting the details of the cathedral's interior.

Missionaries to the Family

AN INITIATIVE TO REVITALIZE
THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

PARADISUS DEI®

*“I see the dawning of a new missionary age, which will become
a radiant day bearing an abundant harvest.”*

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II, REDEMPTORIS MISSIO, #92



The “future evangelization depends largely on the domestic Church.”

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II, FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO, #65



*“Evangelizing spouses is what our parishes need,
especially in urban areas where the pastor and his priest collaborators
will never have time and energy to reach all the faithful.”*

POPE FRANCIS, VATICAN AUDIENCE, JANUARY 25, 2020



*“We are apostles of a new evangelization who believe that
the best days of the Church lie in the future, not in the past. We are building a
new springtime for Christianity based upon the foundation of the family.”*

STEVE BOLLMAN, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, PARADISUS DEI

The Desire for Love

THE CHALLENGE OF OUR AGE

“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,
LETTER TO FAMILIES, #23

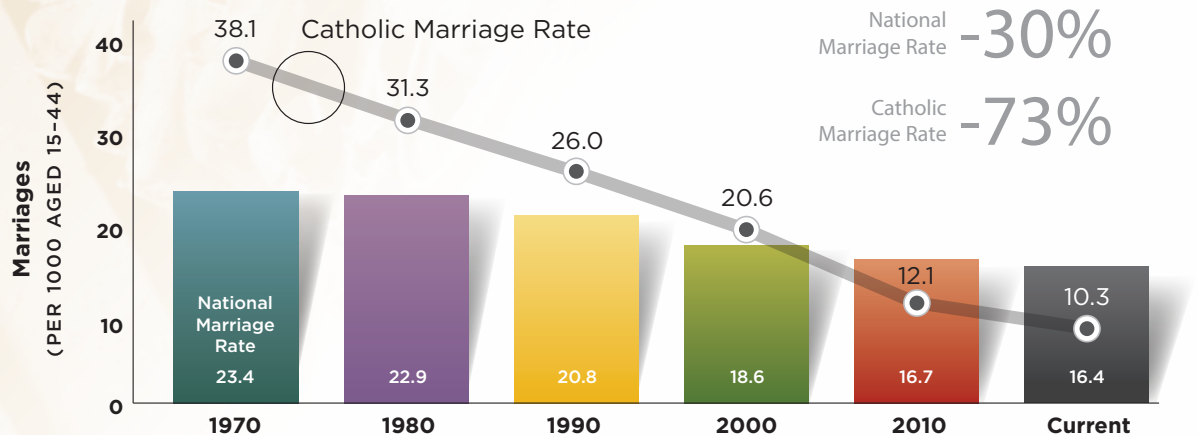
Our culture has moved into uncharted waters. For the first time in our country’s history:

- Households containing a married man and woman are a minority household structure.
- The majority of children under the age of 18 go to bed each night in a home that does not include their biological father and mother.
- Individuals claiming no religious affiliation are more numerous than the largest Christian denomination.

Unfortunately, the data suggest that these disturbing trends will continue. Millennials (aged 17-35) are the largest generation in American history, more numerous than the Baby Boomers. Their decisions will shape the future of our country for decades to come.

Surveys indicate that millennials have become disillusioned with all institutions, but especially the Church and the family. Their participation in organized religion is the lowest in recorded history and a recent survey by Nielsen Research revealed that “getting married” and “having children” were their least desirable goals in life. In fact, the marriage rate per capita has fallen 30 percent in the past generation. The Catholic marriage rate has fallen by a staggering 73 percent.

Marriage Rate per Capita



Frequently hidden behind this data is the greatest tragedy: the thirst of the human heart for love ... that remains unfulfilled. Searching for love, youth turn to their most trusted advisor – technology. They frequently google the very simple, but essential question: “What is love?” They deserve an answer. The future of society and the Church depend on the answer they receive.

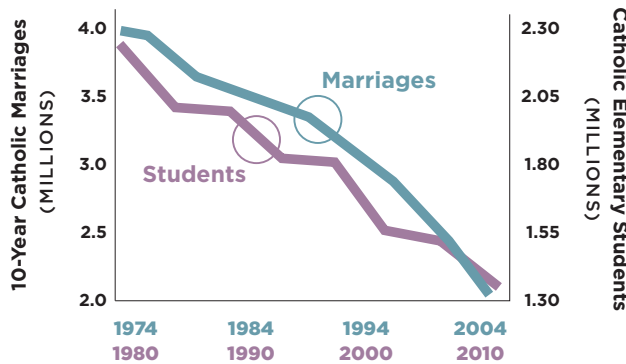
AT STAKE: THE FUTURE OF SOCIETY & THE CHURCH

Since “the future of the world and Church pass by way of the family” (*Pope St. John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio, #75*), the current collapse in marriage and family life is threatening the future viability of larger society and the Church itself.

Indeed, every major issue confronting modern society finds its roots in the breakdown of the family. Furthermore, since the Church was built upon a model whereby Catholics marry and raise their children within the Church, marriage is a “leading indicator” for the future vitality of the Catholic Church. Models indicate that the challenges within the Church will intensify until the Catholic family is restored.

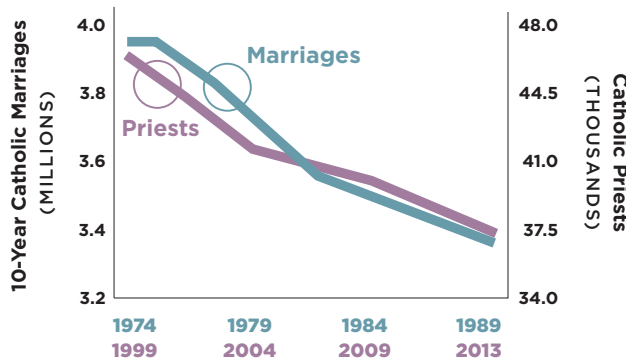
Historically, Catholics married in the Church, had children, introduced their children into the sacraments (Baptism and First Communion), and enrolled them in Catholic schools. As such, each of these areas has been dramatically impacted by the collapse in Catholic marriages. The number of Catholic marriages today has a 98% correlation to the number of Catholic elementary students in six years. The current level of Catholic marriages indicates a further reduction in Catholic elementary students of 177,000.

Marriage and Catholic Education



The Catholic home is the foundation for Catholic vocations. Indeed, 96% of seminarians come from intact Catholic families that attend Mass together on Sunday. As such, the current state of Catholic marriages is an indication of the number of vocations in the future. Indeed, the number of Catholic marriages today has a 97% correlation to the number of priests in 25 years. The current level of Catholic marriages indicates a further reduction in the number of priests by over 20,000.

Marriage and the Number of Catholic Priests



The Importance of the Family

WEALTH

Approximately 3 out of 4 Americans have a net wealth of less than \$10,000.

FAMILY IMPACT

Married couples accumulate 4x the pre-retirement wealth as others.

HEALTH

Americans spend \$3 trillion on healthcare each year.

FAMILY IMPACT

Married couples have 2 fewer weeks of sick days per year.

HAPPINESS

Americans spend \$200 billion on mental health services each year.

FAMILY IMPACT

Married couples are twice as likely to be very happy with their life.

EDUCATION

Americans spend \$620 billion on education each year.

FAMILY IMPACT

Children from intact families are 1/2 as likely to drop out of high school.

CRIME

Americans spend over \$265 billion on the criminal justice system each year.

FAMILY IMPACT

Children from intact families are 1/2 as likely to be incarcerated for a crime.

SEXUALITY

Approximately 17% of the children conceived are aborted and 40% of children are born to unwed mothers.

FAMILY IMPACT

Girls aged 17-18 from intact families are 3X less likely to become pregnant.

The Seven Steps

A PROVEN PATHWAY TO JOY

The Holy Family “was a heaven – a paradise on earth. Delights without end were there ... glory was already begun in the midst of the lowliness ... of their life.”

MONSIGNOR
JEAN JACQUES OLIER,
1658-1657

Integrating together the timeless truths of our faith with the latest research from modern science, Paradisus Dei has developed a proven pathway to authentic joy in marriage and family life.

Unfortunately, the majority of our youth has experienced broken homes and failed relationships. As such, many have abandoned hope of finding true and lasting love. More than anything else, they need hope. They need a pathway to lead them from the pain of this broken world to an authentic experience of human love. They need a pathway to a life-transforming encounter with Divine Love. The pathway they need can be found in the Holy Family.

The Holy Family experienced the joy of Paradise – even in the midst of turmoil and trial. Their life was based on sexual fidelity, financial generosity and an encounter with the God “who is rich in mercy” (*Ephesians 2:4*). The life of the Holy Family has been captured and enunciated for modern audiences in the 7 Steps. These 7 Steps not only “divorce-proof” a marriage, but also put it on the path to superabundant joy.

The Pathway: The Holy Family

THE HOLY FAMILY

THE 7 STEPS



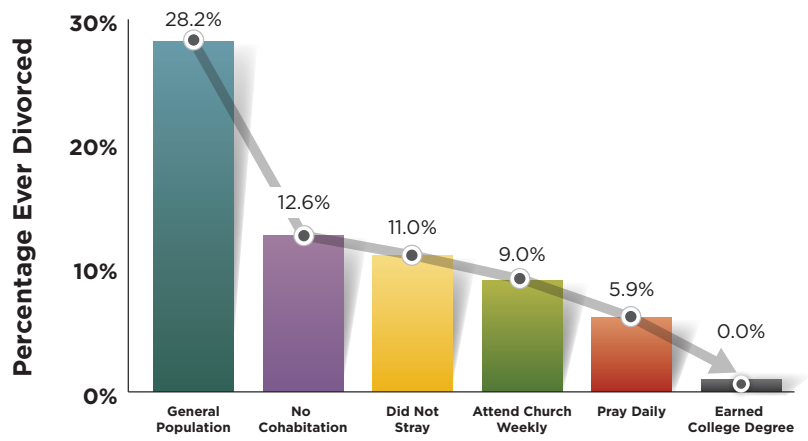
*“It is in the Holy Family ...
that every Christian family must be reflected.”*

POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II,
REDEMPTORIS CUSTOS, #7

Sociological research indicates that 5 factors out of the 7 Steps reduce the probability of divorce to essentially zero. Further, these same 5 factors increase the probability of a happy marriage to almost 100 percent. Indeed, the 5 factors increase the probability of a “very happy” marriage – the highest possible rating – to almost 4 out of 5.

Beyond the ability of the 7 Steps to help build a happier, healthier and more financially secure life on this earth, the 7 Steps help to prepare families for the next life. Indeed, the 7 Steps help the family to scale the heights of the spiritual life by finding union with God who is dwelling in their midst. “Those who have deep spiritual aspirations should not feel that the family detracts from their growth in the life of the Spirit, but rather see it as a path which the Lord is using to lead them to the heights of mystical union” (Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, #316).

The 7 Steps: “Divorce-Proofing” Marriage



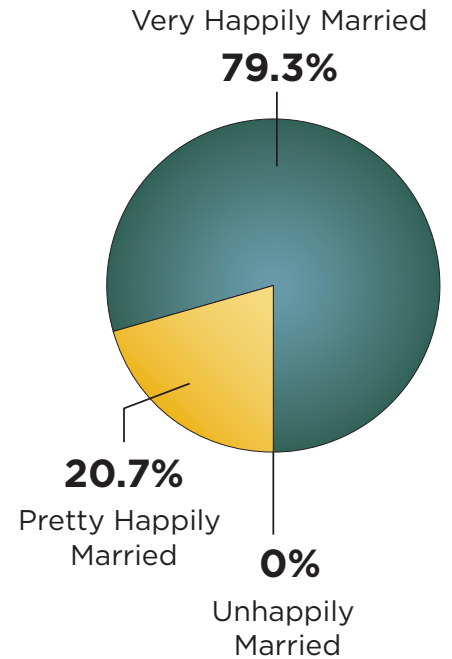
Impact of the 7 Steps

Source: General Social Survey, 1972-2018

Superabundant Joy

Families that live the Spirit of Nazareth according to the practical application of the 7 Steps 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. It begs for other families to "come and see" (*John 1:29*).

The 7 Steps: Pathway to Superabundant Joy



Source: General Social Survey, 1972-2018



Chris & Katherine Smith



The Kaluzny Family

“We want to get our family to heaven. Sometimes we feel in over our heads as parents. Who better to look to when raising children than the Holy Family?”

— KARL & MEGAN, MISSIONARY CLASS TWO

“I can confidently say Chris and I love each other even more today than when this journey began.” - Katherine Smith, *Missionary Class Four*

“The 7 Steps gave us tangible, practical how-to's that we can live out in our marriage, . . . to receive the superabundance in our sacramental marriage.” - Mark & Leigh Hermann, *Missionary Class One*

Missionaries to the Family

A CULTURE SEARCHING FOR THE MEANING OF LOVE.
AN ANSWER OF UNPARALLELED BEAUTY.
THE NEED FOR A MATCHMAKER.

“It is especially necessary to recognize the unique place that ... belongs to the mission of married couples and Christian families ... the Lord ... confers upon Christian married couples a special mission as apostles, sending them as workers into His vineyard, and, in a very special way, into this field of the family.”

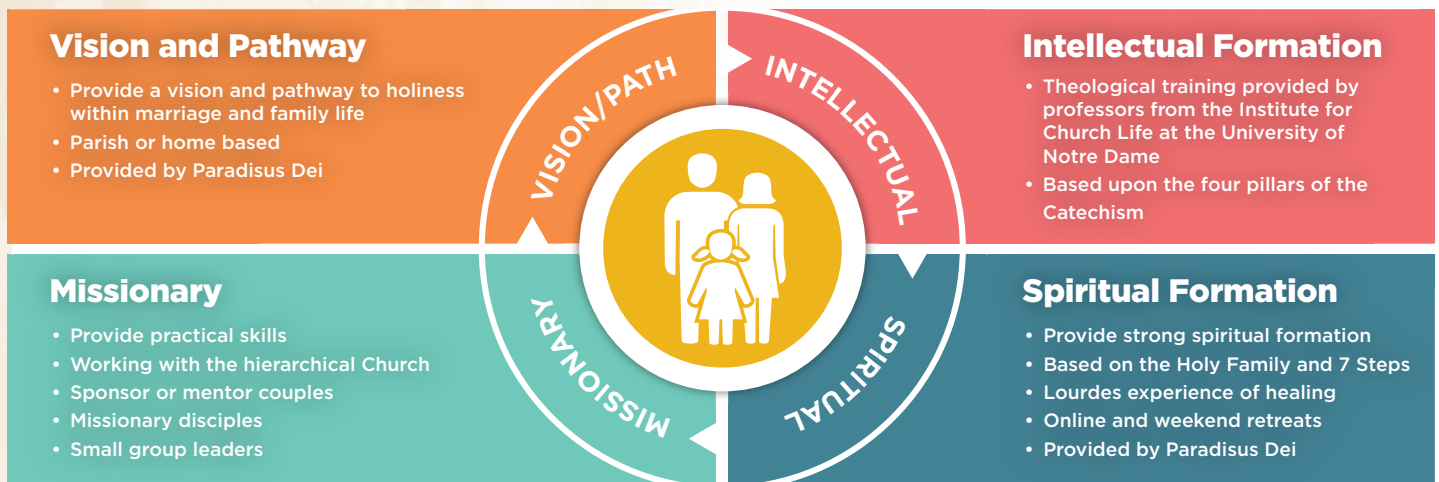
POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II,
FAMILIARIS CONSORTIO, #71

Founded by the God “who is love” (1 John 4:16), the Church has the answer to the longing of our age. Paradisus Dei has developed the pathway to present this answer with unparalleled beauty. 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.

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. We have begun to unveil God within our home by practicing joyful service to each other and our children.”

— BEN & KIM, MISSIONARY CLASS THREE

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.

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 missionary couples are invited to live and then share 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!

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 prepping 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, MISSIONARY CLASS ONE



Missionary Impact

MISSIONARIES

150+ MISSIONARY COUPLES
Four classes as of 2022
30-50 new couples per year
30,000+ FORMATION HOURS

ENCOUNTER

2,000+ PEOPLE
Reached through the missionary activity of the first two classes

ACCOMPANIMENT

400+ PEOPLE
In ongoing accompaniment for more than six months

SERVICE

600+ VOLUNTEER HOURS
Missionary activity per month

Missionaries in the Parish and the Home



“I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest . . . The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” — JOHN 4:35 AND LUKE 10:2

Missionaries to the Family Formation Details

MISSIONARY REQUIREMENTS

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

- Spiritually and emotionally mature (i.e. free from habitual serious sin and addictions)
- In a canonical marriage (i.e. valid marriage in the Catholic Church)
- In a stable, happy marriage (i.e. free of major, ongoing, contentious issues between spouses)
- In stable relationships with any children still in the home (i.e. children free of major emotional issues or addictions)
- Able and willing to dedicate 2 hours per week to formation in the first year and to missionary work in subsequent years.

FORMATION COMMITMENT

The Missionaries to the Family formation program is a comprehensive, rigorous formation program involving classroom study, tests and weekend retreats. To enter into the program, individuals and couples must be willing and able to make the following commitments:

- One hour of online classroom time, which will include tests.
- One hour of additional study of reading materials and formation emails.
- One weekend retreat (Friday 5pm – Sunday noon) at the University of Notre Dame.
- One weekend retreat (Friday 5pm – Sunday noon) in Houston, TX.
- Commissioning retreat (Friday 5pm – Sunday noon) at the University of Notre Dame.

PROGRAM COSTS

- **Cost of Tuition: \$2500/couple** (total cost is \$5000; \$2500 is covered by Paradisus Dei). Tuition cost may be covered by the couple themselves or sponsored by the parish, the diocese, or other couples at the parish.
- **Formation:** Tuition includes classes from the McGrath Institute for Church Life, classes from Paradisus Dei, and lodging and meals for the three retreats.
- **Transportation:** Missionaries are expected to cover the cost of transportation to and from all retreats.
- **Scholarships:** Limited scholarships for tuition are available. Please contact Paradisus Dei for an application.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- **Program Launch:** July 26-28, 2024, at the University of Notre Dame.
- **Online Courses:** Every week beginning immediately after the first retreat.
- **Second Retreat:** January 3-5, 2025, in Houston, Texas.
- **Commissioning Retreat:** August 8-10, 2025, at the University of Notre Dame.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

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.

FIRST QUARTER:

The Mysteries of Faith ... and of the Home.



PRESENTED BY:

Institute of Church Life, University of Notre Dame

LECTURER: Dr. John C. Cavadini, Professor,
Department of Theology, McGrath-Cavadini Director,
McGrath Institute for Church Life, University of Notre Dame

SUBJECT: **The Profession of Faith**

- Week 1: The Natural Desire for God
Revelation
- Week 2: Faith
God
- Week 3: The Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity
Creation
- Week 4: Evil
Original Sin
- Week 5: Incarnation
Atonement
- Week 6: The Resurrection of the Lord
The Last Things
- Week 7: The Holy Spirit
The Mystery of the Church
- Week 8: The Holiness of the Church
The Great Mother of God, Mary Most Holy

GOALS: Give the Missionaries a basic grasp of the fundamental doctrines of the Faith, found in the Creed, in a way that they can communicate to others. Help Missionaries to love the mysteries of the faith so that they can engender this love in others.

PRESENTED BY:

Paradisus Dei

LECTURER: Steve Bollman, Founder and President, Paradisus Dei

SUBJECT: **The 7 Steps in the Life of the Holy Family**

- Opening Retreat
The Mystery of the Holy Family
Experiencing the Grace and Mercy of Lourdes
- Week 9: Living at the Level of the Three Wisdoms
Step 1: Honor Your Wedding Vows
- Week 10: Step 2: Use Money for Others
Step 3: Give God Some of Your Time
- Week 11: Step 4: Set Your Mind on the Things Above
Step 5: Find God in Yourself
- Week 12: Step 6: Find God in Other People
Step 7: Practice Superabundant Mercy

GOALS: Help Missionaries personally experience the merciful love of God. Identify the Holy Family as the Model for every Christian family and introduce the 7 Steps to a Superabundant Marriage as the means by which modern families can live the life of the Holy Family.

SECOND QUARTER:

Celebrating the Christian Mystery ...
with Joy in the Home



PRESENTED BY:

Institute of Church Life, University of Notre Dame

LECTURER: Dr. Anthony J. Pagliarini, Director,
Undergraduate Studies, Department of Theology, University
of Notre Dame

SUBJECT: **Celebrating the Christian Mystery**

- Week 1: Through Him, with Him and in Him
All Creation Rightly Gives You Praise
- Week 2: Efficacious Signs
The Water of Regeneration
- Week 3: Baptism: Priest, Prophet and King
Confirmation: A More Perfect Union
- Week 4: Eucharist: Source and Summit
Eucharist: Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity
- Week 5: The Eucharist: Sacramentum Caritatis
Penance: Healing the Body
- Week 6: Anointing the Sick: To Complete What is Lacking
Holy Orders: In Persona Christi Capitas
- Week 7: Holy Orders: In the Name of the Whole Church
Marriage: Established by the Creator
- Week 8: Marriage: Perfected by Grace
Sacramentals: Sanctifying the Whole

GOALS: Help the Missionaries to understand that the sacraments are the work of Christ and correspond to the greatest desire of the human heart – attaining intimate union with Christ. Show how Christ sanctifies his Church through the sacraments.

PRESENTED BY:

Paradisus Dei

LECTURER: Steve Bollman, Founder and President, Paradisus Dei

SUBJECT: **The Way of Joy in the Home**

- Week 9: The Spiritual Journey
The Light of Don Bosco and St. Therese
- Week 10: The Way of Joy: Honor Your Wedding Vows
The Way of Joy: Use Money for Others
- Week 11: The Way of Joy: Give God Some of Your Time
The Way of Joy: Set Your Mind on the Things Above
- Week 12: The Way of Joy: Find God in Yourself
The Way of Joy: Find God in Other People
- Week 13: The Way of Joy: Practice Superabundant Mercy

GOALS: Identify the Three Ages of the spiritual journey and introduce Don Bosco and St. Therese as guides for this journey. Integrate the teachings of Don Bosco and St. Therese with the 7 Steps to develop a Way of Joy for the home based on simple, practical, tangible actions in the home.

THIRD QUARTER:

Life in Christ ... as a Missionary to the Family



PRESENTED BY:

Institute of Church Life, University of Notre Dame

LECTURER: Dr. Leonard J. DeLorenzo, Director,
Undergraduate Studies, Mc Grath Institute for Church Life,
Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame

SUBJECT: **Life in Christ**

- Week 1: Life in Christ
Heaven and the Order of Life
- Week 2: More Human and Nothing Less
To Live is Christ – The Beatitudes
- Week 3: Rewriting the Human Heart
First Things First
- Week 4: The Power of Names
What Time is For
- Week 5: Between God and Us
There are Only Two Ways
- Week 6: The Rarest and Purist Gift
The Tension of Property
- Week 7: Truth is Beautiful in Itself
The Way We See Things

GOALS: To present “Life in Christ” as the life of freedom, including the discipline and love to live it. To discern the gift of Christ’s life and our task to live and enjoy this life. To show the Ten Commandments as words of mercy.

PRESENTED BY:

Paradisus Dei

LECTURER: Various

SUBJECT: **Tools for the Mission**

- Second Retreat:
 - The Depth of the Spiritual Life
 - The Enemies of the Spiritual Life
 - Creating a Daily Plan of Life
- Week 8: The Pathway for the Missionaries - A
The Pathway for the Missionaries - B
- Week 9: Marriage Preparation
Marriage Enrichment
- Week 10: Accompaniment in the Home - A
Accompaniment in the Home - B
- Week 11: Spiritual Friendships
Marriage and Canon Law

GOALS: To equip Missionaries with the practical tools necessary for the two primary areas of missionary efforts – within the visible structure and programs of the Church and “to the peripheries.” Present the Church’s vision of the fullness of marriage and other marriage types.

FOURTH QUARTER:

Christian Prayer ... for the New Springtime of Christianity



PRESENTED BY:

Institute of Church Life, University of Notre Dame

LECTURER: Dr. Catherine Cavadini-Pagliarini,
M.A. Director, Department of Theology,
University of Notre Dame

SUBJECT: **Christian Prayer**

- Week 1: Prayer as Relationship
Prayer and Salvation History
- Week 2: The Domestic Church
The Martin’s Domestic Church
- Week 3: The Filial Relationship in Prayer
The Filial Relationship, Prayed
- Week 4: Filial Prayer in the Martin House
Therese as Child
- Week 5: Ecclesial/Maternal Relationship
Therese as Mother
- Week 6: Spousal Relationship
Therese as Spouse
- Week 7: The Little Way of Prayer
The Little Way, Daily
- Week 8: Missionaries to the Family
Revolution of Tenderness

GOALS: Integrate the teachings of the Catechism on prayer with the experiences of the Martin family to better understand how our spiritual lives and family life are woven together by our relationship with God. Help missionaries to perceive the light of St. Therese that our family life at home is “that family life that never ends.”

PRESENTED BY:

Paradisus Dei

LECTURER: Various

SUBJECT: **The New Evangelization and Springtime for Christianity**

- Week 9: The Epic Battle Over the Family
The Four Horsemen
- Week 10: A Culture of Death
The Family and the Church
- Week 11: The Need for Holiness
The Lifecycle of the Family
- Week 12: Paradisus Dei: A Spirituality for the Home
Support for Missionaries
- Week 13: Into the Deep
The Future is in Your Heart and in Your Hands

Commissioning Retreat: Encounter Leads to Mission: Sent

GOALS: Complete preparations for the commissioning of Missionaries. Identify the battle over the family and seeds of the current cultural issues. Develop an ongoing support structure between Missionaries and Paradisus Dei.

MISSIONARIES TO THE FAMILY APPLICATION

PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____

Date of Birth (month/day/year) _____ Email _____

Spouse First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____

Spouse Date of Birth (month/day/year) _____ Email _____

Marital Status: Married Engaged Phone _____

Date of Marriage _____ Spouse Phone _____

Is your marriage valid within the Catholic Church? Yes No

Children: Yes No If Yes, please list below and include names & ages:

Mailing Address

Do you have concerns or conflicts with any of the Church's teachings regarding marriage and family life or human sexuality?

PARISH INFORMATION

Current Parish _____ Number of Years _____

Parish Address _____

Pastor's Name and Email _____

Does your pastor support your participation in Missionaries to the Family? Yes No Not Sure

RELEVANT MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Are you a deacon? Yes No

Assist with Marriage Prep? Current Previously No

Sponsor or Mentor Couple? Current Previously No

Assist with R.C.I.A.? Current Previously No

Assist with Youth Ministry? Current Previously No

Other: Please List _____

RETREATS

Are you able to attend the retreats:

Notre Dame July 26-28, 2024: Yes No

Houston January 3-5, 2025: Yes No

Notre Dame August 8-10, 2025: Yes No

WITH PARADISUS DEI

Have you participated in the following Paradisus Dei programs:

That Man is You!: Yes No If Yes, Number of Years _____

The Choice Wine: Yes No

Mysteries of the Rosary: Yes No

COMMUNICATION PREFERENCES

How do you want us to communicate with you:

Email: Husband Wife

Missionaries Mobile App: Husband Wife

SMS Messages: Husband Wife

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT: Missionaries to the Family are expected to fully support all of the Church teachings on marriage and family life and endeavor to fully live them in their own personal lives. The one-year formation program includes 2 hours per week and 3 weekend commitments. Upon completion of the program, Missionaries are expected to volunteer 2 hours per week at their local parish or in their home.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

EMAIL: missionaries@paradisusdei.org

MAIL: Paradisus Dei
Attention: Missionaries to the Family
PO Box 19127, Houston, TX 77224

Missionaries to the Family

AN INITIATIVE TO REVITALIZE
THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

www.paradisusdei.org

missionaries@paradisusdei.org | 281-974-3541

AN INITIATIVE OF **PARADISUS DEI**

ABOUT PARADISUS DEI

Founded in 2001, Paradisus Dei helps families discover the superabundance of God within marriage and family life. Current programming serves couples, men and youth in 45 states and seven countries. Integrating the teachings of the faith with findings of modern science and the wisdom of the saints, these programs have been independently verified to be profoundly life-transforming. Our goal is to encounter people wherever they are on their spiritual journey and help take them further. Paradisus Dei is an independent, lay Catholic ministry dedicated to marriage and family life. For more information, please visit www.paradisusdei.org.