

St. Liborius Catholic Parish

71 W. 35th Street • Steger, IL 60475
708-754-1363 • www.stliborius.org

St. Boniface Catholic Church

5304 W. Main Street • Monee, IL 60449
708-534-9682 • www.stbonifacemonee.org

Pastor

Fr. Thomas Milota
fathermilota@outlook.com

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Frank Pusateri
fatherfrank@stliborius.org

Deacons

Frank Ciscato
Mark Otten
David Prete

Administrative Assistant

Kathy Short
office@stliborius.org

Coordinator of Faith Formation:

Katie Canty
faithformation@stliborius.org
708-754-3460

Coordinator of Sacred Music

(St. Liborius)
Chris Prete
mcp.stliborius@gmail.com

Maintenance

Allen Guziejka

Ministry of Care—St. Boniface

office@stliborius.org

St. Liborius Catholic Parish

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday..... 8:30 AM—3:30 PM

Mass Schedule—see page 2

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM
Friday 7:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

Friday 8:30 AM—9:30 AM

St. Boniface Catholic Church

Office Hours

Tuesday 8:30 AM—3:30 PM

Mass Schedule—see page 2

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday 9:00 AM
Sunday 8:00 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday 9:00 AM—10:00 AM



Give to St. Liborius Parish

Saint Liborius parish and Saint Boniface church have electronic giving. Scan the QR code with your camera and you will be taken to our electronic giving page.



Give to St. Boniface Church

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 18

4:30 PM • **St. Liborius**—Judy Harper & People of the Parish

Sunday, July 19—16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM • **St. Boniface**

Raymond Hays (D) *Req by Chris Hays* & People of the Parish

10:30 AM • **St. Liborius**

Mary Wagner (D)

12:30 PM • **St. Boniface (Spanish)**

Souls in Purgatory

5:00 PM • **St. Liborius**

Don Genens (D) *Req by Jack & Kathy Short*

Monday, July 20—St. Apollinaris

8:00 AM • **St. Liborius**—Health intentions of Lorie Golich

Req by Tracy family

8:30 AM • **St. Boniface**—Communion service

Tuesday, July 21—St. Lawrence of Brindisi

8:30 AM • **St. Boniface**—Wedding anniversary intentions of

Jesse & Laren Newbanks *Req by Bogs-Haser family*

7:00 PM • **St. Liborius**—Health intentions of Nicky Bowden

Req by Tracy family

Wednesday, July 22—St. Mary Magdalene

8:00 AM • **St. Liborius**—Steve Brown (D)

Thursday, July 23—St. Liborius / St. Bridget of Sweden

8:00 AM • **St. Liborius**—St. Liborius Parish

8:30 AM • **St. Boniface**—Communion service

Friday, July 24—St. Sharbel Makhluf

8:00 AM • **St. Liborius**—Elizabeth Milota *Req by family*

8:30 AM • **St. Boniface**—Communion service

Saturday, July 25—St. James, apostle

8:00 AM • **St. Liborius**—George & Harriet Grunhard (D) *Req by George Totleben*

4:30 PM • **St. Liborius**—Edwin Prist (D)

Sunday, July 26—17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM • **St. Boniface**

Christopher Hays (D) *Req by Chris Hays*

10:30 AM • **St. Liborius**

Secondo & Theresa Santilli (D) *Req by Earl & Jeanette Dargert*

12:30 PM • **St. Boniface (Spanish)**

Vocations to the Priesthood

5:00 PM • **St. Liborius**

Bryndyn Lane (D) *Req by Lois Lane*

Scripture Readings

Sunday, July 19—16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16;

Rm 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43 OR Mt 13:24-30

Sunday, July 26—17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128,

129-130; Mt 13:44-52 OR Mt 13:44-46

Liturgical Ministers

St. Boniface • July 26

Lector

Cindy Clark

Eucharistic Minister

John Porpora

Ministers of the Cup

Deacon Mark Otten, Colleen Domke, Donald Domke

Altar Servers

Sherwin Jaculbe, Anita Otten

St. Boniface • July 25/26

Lector

4:30pm—Chuck Gromala

10:30am—Rudy Martinez

5:00pm—Craig Quick

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:30pm—Jim Betourney, Maureen Burns,

Chuck Gromala, Debbie Ledford

10:30am—Art LeMere, Kathy Krebs, Melva Larrieu,

Ted Kulma

5:00pm—Jeanette Dargert, Craig Quick

Altar Servers

4:30pm—Experienced volunteers needed

10:30am—Danilo Perez & Josh Boyd

5:00pm—Slaney Chavez

Our Stewardship

Thank you for your generosity!

St. Liborius weekend of July 12, 2026:

Sunday Offertory.....\$7209.32

Children's envelopes.....\$0

St. Boniface weekend of July 5, 2026:

Sunday Offertory.....\$1626.00

Spanish Mass.....\$458.00



From Our Pastor

Dear Parishioners of Saint Liborius parish and Saint Boniface church,

Religious Education Registration

Do you have a 2nd grader who has not yet received their First Holy Communion or First Reconciliation? Do you have an 7th or 8th grader who needs to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? Would you like your children to receive formation in the Catholic faith?

Every parent wants their children to be happy, to live a life full of faith and hope and love. Please take the time to register your children for Religious Education classes before July 31st so you can receive the early registration discount.

Contact Katie Canty at 708-754-3460 or email her at faithformation@stliborius.org

-Registration forms can be found online (<https://www.stliborius.org/religious-education>), in the back of church, in my office and in the rectory.

-Tuition is \$150 for one child, \$50 for each additional child BEFORE July 31st. On August 1st, it goes to \$180 for one child, \$60 for each additional child. There is a \$50 Sacramental Fee for the second year of Sacramental Preparation.

Early registration allows us to begin communicating with you regarding dates, times, and sacramental requirements, and it helps us to begin planning, finding catechists and putting together class rosters.

Religious Education Office Hours in July

Monday: 8:30am-4:30pm
Wednesday: 8:30am-4:30pm
Thursday: 8:30am-4:30pm

August through May Office Hours:

Sunday: 8:20am-10:20am
Monday: 8:30am-5:30pm
Wednesday: 8:30am-5:30pm
Thursday: 8:30am-5:30pm

Mother Teresa Catholic Academy Registrations are Open

Mother Teresa Catholic Academy realized **the largest percent increase in standardized test scores of any school in the Diocese of Joliet** last year. If you would like your children to be formed in a **safe Catholic environment** that emphasizes Catholic virtues like faith, hope and love and be educated in a **strong academic environment** preparing them to succeed in high school and in life, then send them to Mother Teresa Catholic Academy. If you are concerned you will not be able to meet the tuition requirement, we have numerous scholarships available especially for parishioners of Saint Liborius/Saint Boniface.

Please phone the parish office at MTCA (708) 672-3093.

<https://mtcacademy.org/>

May Almighty God bless you and keep you.

Prayers.

In Christ,

Fr. Thomas Milota

Sacraments

Sacrament of Baptism

All parents asking for their children to be baptized must attend a Baptismal Prep class. Classes are held on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. @ St. Liborius in the Church, with a reminder notice in the parish bulletin. If a child has already been baptized here no need to attend class again.

Please register for the class by calling the St. Liborius Parish Office at 708-754-1363. Godparents are also encouraged to attend the class. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays immediately following the 10:30am Mass. Families and attendees of the Baptism are encouraged to attend Mass as the Baptisms will commence immediately after Mass.

Sacrament of Marriage

Marriage preparation must begin a minimum of six months prior to the actual wedding date. Contact the parish office—St. Liborius (708-754-1363) or St. Boniface (708-534-9682) to begin the process.

Anointing of the Sick

Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament that is received by those who are ill or suffering. By the sacred anointing and the prayer of the priest, the whole Church commends those who are sick to Christ.

Due to the Privacy Act, hospitals can no longer inform us when a parishioner is admitted to the hospital. A close relative needs to call either Parish Office—St. Liborius (708-754-1363) or St. Boniface (708-534-9682) to request an anointing.

Our Parish School:

Mother Teresa Catholic Academy
24201 S. Kings Rd., Crete.
Phone: 708-672-3093
www.mtcacademy.org

Dr. Kevin Burns, PhD, President

Mrs. Felice Hybert, Principal

All parishioners of St. Liborius / St. Boniface are invited to attend the weekly school Masses at Mother Teresa Catholic Academy on Thursdays at 9:45am when school is in session.

Please Pray For...

Jennifer Bartels, Jerry Bernar, Jr., Harold Blazeovich, Nicky Bowden, Kathy Call, Barry Christianson, Joan Cleghorn, Czajka Family, Ris Dancer, Earl & Jeanette Dargert, Mildred Dickover, Don & Kathy Dornhecker, Tammy Downen, Guy Gasparetti, Lorie Golich, Ken Grakauskas, Liz Greene, Barbara Gromala, Colleen Herzic, Betty Hoeffner, Hoyda family, Rosie Janota, James Jones, Kimberly King, Peter Klakow, Terri Koepke, Nancy Koepke, Patti Koopman, Louise Kopaczewski, Dennis and Brenda Lileikis, Pauline Luthi, Kate Luxon, Joane Males, Amber Mangan, Anthony Mangan, Bethany Mangan, Corrie Mangan, Ivy Mangan, Jeremy Mangan, Maykala Mangan, Nasya Mangan, Gavin Mann, Jimmy Martin, Brenda McCann, Michael McDonnell, Fr. John McGeean, Angela Mills, Bill Moran, Elyse M., Carmin M., John Novak, Fred Nunez, Victoria Nunez-Stuckart, Timmy Phillips, Lloyd Pierce, Nancy Pilotto, Robert Prete, William P., Sisilia Rakesa, Michael Rozwalka, Denise Rozwalka, Eligha Sain, Luis Santiago, Ray Smith, Bob Staniec, George Stelma, James Szelinski, Jr., Arnie Szudarski, Julie Szudarski, Mary Truss, Robert Wagner, Kenyada Wilson, Bill Wogan, RW, Colleen Zwolinski, Debbie Zwolinski, Raymond A. Zwolinski,

- Crete Police, Detectives, Fire and Paramedic Departments
- Monee Police, Detectives, Fire and Paramedics, and Emergency Management Agency
- Steger Estates Fire and Paramedic Departments
- Steger Police, Detectives, Fire and Paramedic Departments

Prayer in honor of St. Mary Magdalene



O God, whose Only Begotten Son entrusted St. Mary Magdalene before all others with announcing the joy of the Resurrection, grant, we pray, that through her intercession and example we may proclaim the living Christ and come to see him reigning in your glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Feast: July 22

Patroness of Converts, repentant sinners, perfume makers



Parish Religious Education Program

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to invite you to participate in the St. Liborius Parish and Saint Boniface church Parish Religious Education Program, known as PREP. One of the most important steps to loving anyone is to know them, and if we want to love God well, it is important that we learn about Him. If we want our children to love God, then we need to teach them about Him. We are here to collaborate with you to teach your children about God in concurrence with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Classes begin September 20th, 2026, and go through May 9th, 2027. The Early Registration Deadline is July 31st, 2026, so please register on or before this date to receive a tuition discount. All registration materials can be found online on our website <https://www.stliborius.org/> or physically at the back of Church or at the parish office. For more information, please contact me or look at the Letter to the Parish at the front of the Registration Packet.

We are currently looking for Religious Education Catechists, Catechist Aides, and substitute teachers across grade levels. If you are interested, please either contact me or fill out a Volunteer Form found online, at the back of church, or at the parish office.

Thank you for your time and attention, God bless you!

Sincerely,
Katie Canty
Coordinator of Religious Education
faithformation@stliborius.org
RE Center 708 754-3460

June and July Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30am-4:30pm

August through May Office Hours:

Sunday: 8:20am-10:20am

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30am-5:30pm

Traveling?

Visit masstimes.org to find the nearest Catholic Mass.

Parish Bulletin deadlines:

Please send items for publication in the parish bulletin or weekly Flocknote to:

connections@stliborius.org

Items must be submitted to the bulletin editor by no later than Thursday (**ten days prior to the publication date**). We reserve the right to edit or re-format content as space allows.

Acceptable formats for text are MS Word or Publisher. Images or graphics must be in jpg or png files.

New Ministry Schedule for St. Boniface

The current Ministry schedule for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and Altar Servers will end July 26, 2026. The next schedule will be from Aug 2, 2026 through Sept 27, 2026. Please email Deacon Mark at: markotten1@gmail.com with any dates you are not available. Deadline for any changes (new people, delete your service, etc.) must be in no later than July 20, 2026.

If you would like to be a Lector or Eucharistic Minister, or Altar Server, please contact the office or place a note with your name and phone number in the collection basket. Training will be provided.



Bishop Dennis Spies
Diocesan Administrator



Are You Being Called to the Permanent Diaconate?

The Diocese of Joliet is in the process of inviting men to discern the call to the next diaconate class of formation.

If the thought of becoming a deacon has whispered to your soul, I encourage you to contact the diaconate office for more information.

Office for the Diaconate
815-221-6174

vocations.diojoliet.org/start-a-conversation

MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC ACADEMY

NOW ENROLLING

24201 S. Kings Road
Crete, IL

www.mtcacademy.org



— + Daughters of St. Liborius + —

The Daughters of St. Liborius are a Catholic women's auxiliary to the Knights of Columbus council #14562.

We are a faith-centered sisterhood dedicated to spiritual growth, fellowship, and charitable service within our parish and community.

+ OUR MISSION +

- + Enhance spirituality (women's retreats)
- + Offer socialization opportunities (field trips and outings)
- + Foster charitable activities (Aid for Women & Catholic Charities)
- + Promote causes of our Knights of Columbus council #14562
- + Defend the sanctity and dignity of life
- + Support and defend the traditional nuclear family as stated in the CCC Article 7: 1601

+ MONTHLY MEETINGS +

4th Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm
All women 18+ are welcome



Chris Prete
708-420-8369

Jill Raymond
708-752-5284

mcp.stliborius@gmail.com · jillmrayment@hotmail.com



— + Saint Liborius Catholic Church · Steger, Illinois — Diocese of Joliet —



**Classes Start September 3rd
in St. Liborius PREP Building**

<http://bit.ly/stlocia>

Sign Up Here!

OCIA

BECOMING CATHOLIC

- Classes every week Thursday at 7pm led by our priests
- Fellowship gatherings once a month Sunday morning at 9:15am followed by 10:30am Mass

For those who are looking to become Catholic or those who are already Catholic and looking to complete their sacraments





ST. LIBORIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

— KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS —

★★★ 15TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING ★★★

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND, 2026

Lincoln Oaks Golf Course
395 E. Richton Rd. • Crete, IL

Ample opportunity to win great prizes!

LONGEST DRIVE HOLE

CLOSEST TO THE PIN HOLE

LONGEST PUTT HOLE

LOWEST FOURSOME SCORE

HIGHEST FOURSOME SCORE

CHECK-IN 12:00 PM

SHOTGUN START 1:00 PM

DINNER 5:30 PM

PRIZES AWARDED at dinner

CASH BEVERAGE CART (beer, pop, water, candy, chips)

GOLF & DINNER

\$95

DINNER ONLY

\$30

All proceeds generated will go to helping various well-known charities across the Chicago Metropolitan Area.



Make checks payable to: **Knights of Columbus Council #14562**
Please return this form along with your check for the full amount to:
K of C at 276 Hunters Dr. Beecher, IL 60401
NO LATER THAN August 1st, 2026





For more information contact:
Clint Mann 219-746-9025 • clintamann@gmail.com



GOLF REGISTRATION



— PLEASE PRINT THE NAMES OF YOUR FOURSOME/GOLFERS —

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

PLAYER NAMES (PLEASE PRINT)	GOLF & DINNER \$95	DINNER ONLY \$30
1. _____	☐	☐
2. _____	☐	☐
3. _____	☐	☐
4. _____	☐	☐

Check Amount \$ _____ Check Number: _____

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Check your preference – ONLY A FEW SPOTS LEFT


☐

HOLE SPONSOR.....\$100

Includes sign with name and/or company logo at designated hole


☐

BEVERAGE CART SPONSOR.....\$200

Includes sign with name and/or company logo on beverage cart. Only one cart. Be the first to register. Exceptional exposure.


☐

OUTING GIFT SPONSOR.....ANY AMOUNT

Complete the sponsorship form and indicate your gift(s). Your sponsorship will be announced when the prizes are awarded.



Make checks payable to: **Knights of Columbus Council #14562**
Please return this form along with your check for the full amount to:
K of C at 276 Hunters Dr. Beecher, IL 60401
NO LATER THAN August 1st, 2026




For more information contact:
Clint Mann 219-746-9025 • clintamann@gmail.com

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



DIOCESE OF JOLIET



QUO VADIS DAYS

Sunday, July 26 – Thursday, July 30, 2026
Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, IL



Quo Vadis Days is a 5-day/4-night camp for young men cosponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Diocese of Joliet and led by the seminarians. The camp is filled with dynamic talks, small group discussion, prayer experiences, as well as plenty of fun – sports, board games, fires and smores, and much more.

The camp is open to all middle school graduates over the age of 13 through age 18 who want to grow in their relationship with the Lord and learn more about the priesthood.



More information and registration is available at:
chicagopriest.com/events/quo-vadis-days

Questions? Contact Katie Hazen at khazen@archchicago.org



ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



DIOCESE OF JOLIET



DÍAS QUO VADIS

Domingo, 26 de julio – Jueves, 30 de julio de 2026
Seminario Mundelein, Mundelein, IL



Los Días Quo Vadis son un campamento de 5 días/4 noches para jóvenes varones copatrocinado por la Arquidiócesis de Chicago y la Diócesis de Joliet y liderado por los seminaristas. El campamento está lleno de dinámicas charlas, discusiones de grupos pequeños, experiencias de oración, así como también lleno de diversión, deportes, juegos de mesa, fogatas y s'mores y mucho más.

El campamento está abierto para todos los graduados de la escuela intermedia mayores de 13 años hasta los 18 años que quieran crecer en su relación con el Señor y aprender más sobre el sacerdocio.

Más información y la inscripción están disponibles en:
chicagopriest.com/events/quo-vadis-days

¿Tienes preguntas? Comunícate con Katie Hazen en
khazen@archchicago.org

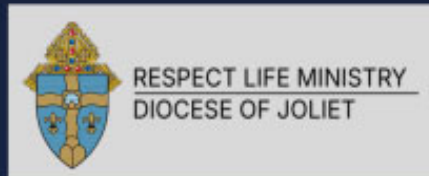




RESPECT LIFE

FALL SUMMIT

AUG. 29, 2026



FEATURING DR. JOE ZALOT

All interested or involved in Respect Life Ministry are invited to a seminar by Dr. Joe Zalot. Dr. Zalot is the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center. In addition to overseeing the NCBC Certification Program, Chaplain Program, and "Introduction to Catholic Health Care Ethics" course for Catholic high schools and homeschooling networks, he produces and hosts the NCBC's Bioethics on Air podcast and has authored multiple statements, guides, and book chapters for NCBC publications. He also lectures for the NCBC, is interviewed by local and national media on health care issues, and has responded to more than 2400 ethics consultations.



NOON – 1PM: LUNCH AND FELLOWSHIP

1–4PM: PRESENTATION

**Taking place at the Blanchette Catholic Center:
16555 Weber Rd., Crest Hill, IL 60403**

REGISTER HERE:

AT THIS LINK

OR VIA THE QR CODE





Designed by God Guided by Love Open to Life

Rev. Msgr. Robert R. Cannon

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

The natural beauty of creation has the power to draw us into the mystery of God. We can see, feel, smell, and sense God's creative handiwork in so many ways. Consider when we pause to savor the burst of colors in a sunset or the rhythmic sound of waves rolling upon a beach. It might be in the playful antics of a kitten or a child's first step. Everything reflects and proclaims God's glory and love. The Church teaches that through natural revelation, "even before revealing Himself to man in words of truth, God reveals Himself ... in the universal language of creation, the work of His word, of His wisdom" (CCC, 2500).

The Church teaches that through "natural reason, man can know God...on the basis of His works" (CCC, 50). When we allow ourselves to be attentive to the wonder of creation, we begin to see that creation is not random or accidental, but ordered and purposeful. God has established laws within creation on which humanity can rely with confidence, laws that are to be respected by the stewardship of men and women (see CCC, 346).

Designed by God

In creating man and woman in His image and likeness, God enables us to share in His own life (see CCC, 225). Human dignity flows from this divine design. And, because God is love, divine love is inscribed in the human body itself. St. John Paul II taught that the body has a "spousal meaning" (see General Audience, April 14, 1982), as God has written into human nature the vocation and responsibility of love and communion (see FC, 14). It is found in every man and woman, expressed in sexuality and fertility, marriage, and procreation. And here is where the modern methods of Natural Family Planning (NFP) stand ready to help. NFP supports the

Creator's sublime design for marriage, guided by love, and open to life.

God's creation of male and female is not incidental but intentional. Sexuality, therefore, is purposeful. It draws people out of isolation and toward communion. It affects "every aspect of the human person" and it allows man and woman to unite in the unique communion of persons called marriage (see CCC, 371–372; 2332–2335). Flowing from this reality of community, marriage reflects God's own inner life—a communion of love that is both life-giving and faithful.

Guided by Love

Guided by love means to be directed toward the good of the other. Love, by its nature, is relational. St. John Paul II powerfully expressed this truth when he wrote that man cannot live without love; without it, life becomes senseless and incomprehensible (see RH, 10).

Of all creatures, only human beings can know and love God and consciously participate in His life. St. Paul teaches, "we are created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance" (Ephesians 2:11). To be guided by love is to participate in God's creative plan and to help build a culture of life and love (see EV, 77).

Marriage is neither a social invention nor a product of chance. "It is ... the wise...institution of God the Creator, whose purpose was to effect in man His loving design" (HV, 8). Because of this divine origin, the Church teaches that married love is freely given, faithful, permanent, and fruitful (see HV, 9). Marital love reflects God's own love!

When a man and a woman freely exchange consent, they establish a covenant for "the whole of life" that is

“ordered by its very nature to the good of the spouses and to the procreation and education” of children (see Canon 1055). God Himself is present within this union. When the spouses are baptized Christians, marriage becomes a sacrament, receiving its strength and permanence from Christ Himself.

Open to Life

A unique gift and responsibility contained in the marital vocation is stewardship over the powers of life. God calls husband and wife to embrace their shared fertility as a gift. The Lord God created marriage to be the home of the family. Spouses give “themselves to one another” and at the same time give beyond themselves to the reality of “children, who are a living reflection of their love, a permanent sign of conjugal unity” (see FC, 14).

As stewards of the gift of fertility, married couples are invited to seek God’s will together in a spirit of trust and humility. It is in this spirit that God helps them make prudent decisions about welcoming children. It is within this discernment that NFP finds its proper place.

NFP methods are evidence-based approaches to fertility education that can assist couples in identifying when fertility is at its peak so that couples can attempt to achieve or postpone pregnancy. When avoiding pregnancy, no drugs or devices are used that can harm God’s gifts. NFP differs fundamentally from contraception. Rather than interfering with God’s design for married couples, NFP respects the integrity of married love and the gift of life.

When pregnancy has been attempted and a child is conceived, parents speak of the great joy and gratitude that they have. They also say that the time of childbirth is one of the most meaningful moments in their lives. Mothers will speak of God’s presence when first holding their newborn baby. Fathers proudly admit they finally understand the meaning of fatherhood when looking into their newborn’s eyes. This self-realization is due to the natural and “the fundamental task of family,” which is “to serve life, to actualize...the original blessing of the Creator ...of transmitting by procreation the divine image from person to person” (see FC, 28).

The fruitfulness of spousal love is not limited to the gift of children. Some couples, despite their desires, are unable to conceive. In this case, a married couple’s openness to life can be expressed in other ways through adoption, foster

care, or generous service to the Church and community. The vocation of marriage is wide—it calls all married couples to create homes where love is shared and others are nurtured. They are all called to mirror God’s love.

All of creation proclaims the glory of God and the handiwork of His love! Whether single or married, every person is created in God’s image and likeness, given the capacity to love, and invited to share in His life. Within the arms of God’s love, marriage stands as a unique gift to humanity—a sacred communion in which husband and wife live the fullness of human sexuality and become stewards of life. Marriage is not merely for the good of husband and wife, but for the good of the world. Truly, marriage is designed by God, guided by love, and open to life!

Reference guide with links

CCC: Catechism of the Catholic Church (see <https://uscclb.cld.bz/Catechism-of-the-Catholic-Church2>)

EV: Evangelium vitae, St. John Paul II, 1995 (see https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html)

FC: Familiaris consortio, St. John Paul II, 1980 (see https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_19811122_familiaris-consortio.html)

HV: Humanae vitae, St. Pope Paul VI, 1968 (see https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html)

RH: Redemptio hominis, St. John Paul II, 1979 (see https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_04031979_redemptor-hominis.html)

To learn about the Church’s teaching about married love and the gift of life and the ethical methods of NFP, see www.usccb.org/nfp

Questions? Contact nfp@usccb.org



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