



Where are we now?
Marriage and Family Life
Ministry in the United States

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A Thriving Church

“the most important factor in predicting whether children would be faithful Catholic adults was how the faith was practiced in the home and how the faith contributed to warm and close family relationships.

External faith activities (e.g., Mass attendance, Catholic school, youth group, other Church activities) were important, but respondents saw these activities as secondary and supportive of the family’s efforts to live the faith at home.” (Future Faithful Families Project)



Multi-Ministerial Approach

In every parish ministry, there is an opportunity to serve and sustain the family if the family is ministered to as a family, not as isolated individuals of varying ages and interests.



Invest in the Family

“The Church must invest more resources into forming healthy, faith-centered family lives even if that means cutting back on other ministry efforts.

The capacity for almost every other ministry effort (i.e., Catholic education, evangelization, youth ministry, sacramental and parish life) to “stick” appears to be dependent upon the Catholic family’s ability to create a warm, loving, faith-centered life in the home.”



Marriage as the Foundation

“Nationally, less than 50 percent of all adults under 30 today grew up in a home with married parents...” However, among churchgoing adults, about 80% have been raised by continuously married biological parents.

This indicates a **strong correlation between married parents and children who remain faithful practicing Catholics.**



A Tool for Our Times

The evangelizing, or re-evangelizing of families, is the most urgent priority of our times. This certificate is one tool as an important step to focus our efforts as a Church on Her families, those small domestic churches, that are called to share in Her mission.

