



Recommendations for Parish Ministries and Families

For Parish Pastoral Leaders

The major themes that flow from the readings this weekend include:

- Service as a family to God, parish, and neighbor as a “domestic church” (Joshua 24:15 “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord!”)
- Connection between the Eucharist and Marriage (Psalm 34 “Taste and see the goodness of the Lord” and Ephesians 5:29-30 “He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.”) See also Theology of the Body [catecheses 87 to 94](#), July 28 to September 15, 1982.
- Jesus as the divine master in the school of love, the best guide and example for couples on the journey of married life (John 6:68 “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”)

Sample ideas for parish activities this month:

- A family-oriented service activity day
- A guest speaker on the topic of the Sacrament of Marriage, inspired by Ephesians 5 (recommend using the ToB catecheses as a resource, using an interactive format)
- Promote resources and movements that help couples to encounter Christ and place him and his teaching at the center of their marriage, especially in the Eucharist.
- A workshop on the ins-and-outs and reasons for convalidation (i.e. see [Pathways to Marriage Convalidation](#)).





For Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCLs) and K-8 Catechists

During this summer, before catechetical instruction begins, catechists should be encouraged to deepen their own understanding of the social benefits, goods, and Catholic vision of marriage so that they can be effective messengers and guardians of the goodness and beauty that shine forth in a life of fidelity to the Gospel. To better prepare themselves this month, we encourage:

- PCLs: plan for a one-hour formation session with all your catechists to view and discuss the catechist training video, which will be available at www.radiatelove.info by the end of August.
- Begin communicating with the parents and families you serve, helping them to access resources on the website that will strengthen their marriages, or accompany them to discern a convalidation if theirs is a non-sacramental union.
- Send an email to your catechists, inviting them to take some time to learn more about:
 - Marriage in God's Plan (see Fr. Mike Schmitz Day [219](#))
 - Marriage in the New Covenant (see Fr. Mike Schmitz Day [220](#))
 - The Celebration of Marriage (see Fr. Mike Schmitz Day [221](#))
 - Matrimonial Consent (see Fr. Mike Schmitz Day [222](#))
- If the parish's catechetical year has begun, catechists should plan to incorporate a 5 to 10-minute reflection, discussion, or activity into their session this week, drawing from the materials and resources in this Radiate Love packet. Some options might include:
 - Select a few verses from the first reading or the Gospel and do a [lectio divina](#) with the children. Pflaum's [Gospel Weeklies](#) provide age-appropriate content that could be used.
 - Another might be to offer coloring pages (i.e. [here](#) and [here](#)) for the younger kids.



For Parish Youth and Young Adult Ministry Leaders

Youth Ministry Leaders

The recommendations for PCLs and catechists also apply to parish youth ministry leaders. If the youth ministry is gathering this month, it would be a great time to conduct a session on one of these topics:

- The parallel between the love of Christ and the marriage of a man and a woman in Ephesians 5:21-33
- What it takes to form a lifelong, exclusive, and faithful relationship, open to children from God, in the Sacrament of Marriage, and how the model of Christ's love can help us

Young Adult Ministry Leaders

The recommendations for PCLs and catechists also apply to young adult ministry leaders. If the young adult ministry is gathering this month, it would be a great time to conduct a session on one of these topics:

- The complementarity and mutual subordination of a man and a woman in marriage in the light of Ephesians 5:21-33
- Skills, practices, and attitudes that strengthen a lifelong, exclusive, and faithful covenant relationship in the Sacrament of Marriage, modeled on the love of Christ
- Practical ways to keep Christ at the center of the relationship while dating, and maintaining that perspective throughout marriage

For Catholic Couples and Parents

Families and couples are encouraged to visit the *Families* and *Married Couples* sections of the *Radiate Love* website. In addition, the following resources are on topic this month:

- USCCB – [For Your Marriage](#) and [Por Tu Matrimonio](#)
 - [25 Ways to Fight Fair](#)
 - [Spousal Prayer: A Way to Marital Happiness](#)

