HOW CAN WE HELP?

We care about guiding Sacramental Marriage, and aiding parishes with Sacramental Preparation. Please visit us online
www.catholicmarriageprep.com
Or schedule a call at
outreach@AgapeCatholicMinistries.com

ABOUT US

At Agapè Catholic Ministries, we strive to serve priests, parishes, and (arch)dioceses, to make their vocations & lives easier.
Agapè Catholic Ministries' vision is, *"Building Christ-centred families, one Family at a time,"* through marriage preparation, baptism preparation, quinceañeras preparation, and marriage enrichment.
We offer online classes, with one-on-one mentors, to encourage deep reflection and conversation. Our courses are available 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, on your desktop, laptop, tablet, or smart phone.

It is, "*a social & even economic necessity... to hold up to future generations the beauty of marriage & the family & the fact that these institutions correspond to the deepest needs & dignity of the person.*"

- Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate*, 44

We are passionate about supporting Priests & Parishes around the world! How can we help you?

CATHOLIC MARRIAGE PREP.COM

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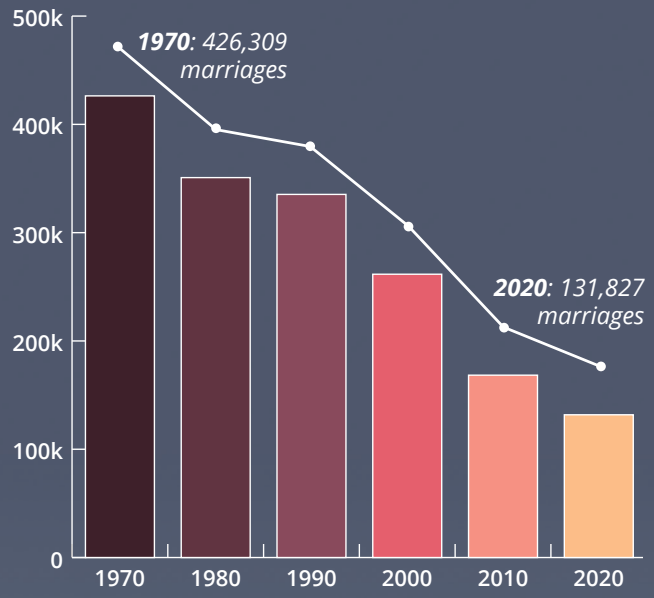
Combating the DECLINE OF MARRIAGE

How to encourage Sacramental Marriage within your parish & keep new families involved in Parish Life!

"*The sacramental union of husband & wife, sealed in the covenant which they enter into before God, endures & grows stronger as the generations pass.*"
- St John Paul II

THE PROBLEM

SERIOUS DECLINE IN MARRIAGES



The data reflects a steady decline in the number of catholic marriages over 50 years in the USA.
https://cara.georgetown.edu/

Data analysis shows a steady and alarming decline of 70% in the number of American Catholic marriages, despite a 25% growth in the Catholic population for the same period in the USA (54.1 million to 72.4 million).

Unfortunately, the estimated number of Catholic marriages in 2023, is only 85,000, which is an 80% decline from 1970 to 2023.

A 4-POINT APPROACH

Over the past 25 years, we've found that one of the best ways to bring new couples into Parish Life is to make sure they have top-tier marriage preparation that provides a firm faith foundation and an understanding of a married couple's role within Parish Life.
Once a couple understands the vital role they play, they are bound to become more involved.
We recommend a 4-point approach:

1 EDUCATE:

• Provide marriage/young family book studies with childcare using your Youth Ministry program.

- Keep an updated "Marriage Resources" page on your parish website and create a newsletter to be emailed out to all engaged/ young married couples.
- Tabella App and other existing parish apps can be shared with your marriage ministry leaders.
- Offer and promote info sessions; discuss marriage topics such as Marriage as a Sacrament, the convalidation marriage process, the role of young families in the parish, process to declaration of nullity, etc.
- Offer a "Welcome to the Parish" folder, with a list of ministries, services & classes, and how young couples can get involved.

2 INVOLVE:

• Create a section in your bulletin for engaged or married couples with information they might find relevant within your parish.

- Identify Mentor Couples in the Parish who are willing to call and invite new couples to events, book studies, and to volunteer on projects with them.

3 PREACH & PRAY:

• Include, "For an increase in faith-filled sacramental marriages" & "For an increase in Family Involvement in Parish Life" in the Prayers of the Faithful.

- Consider preaching more frequently on the sacrament of matrimony, its importance, and the lives of married Saints, on relevant weekends.
- Highlight upcoming weddings, and major anniversaries on the 1st Sunday Mass of each month in the bulletin or before Mass.
- Involve the whole church in praying for engaged couples via an "Adopt a Couple" program where parishioners select an engaged couple's card (names/wedding date/picture) from a basket to pray for.
- Add engaged couple's names to the Bulletin and Parish Prayer Lists. Create a Parish Prayer Card with a prayer for a Holy Marriage, that is given to engaged couples.
- Have a monthly or weekly Adoration Hour for all families with upcoming sacraments; marriage, baptism, OCIA, Holy Eucharist.

4 SUPPORT:

• Share resources for marriages such as local/online Catholic Marriage counsellors, programs like Retrouvaille or For Your Marriage (also available in Spanish) and consider hosting a 'Heal Your Marriage' workshop.

- Access our information on "Ministry to the Newly Married", parish-based ministry for the first five years of marriage **www.catholicenrichment.com**.
- Have a designated table or bulletin board where couples can find free resources for marriage. Include fliers, book lists, and internet resources.