

3rd Annual
National Week for Life and the Family
May 10-17, 2014

An initiative of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops



* Picture of Artwork at Holy Family Home (Winnipeg), operated by the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate

ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES GUIDE

for Parishes in Southern Manitoba

THE FAMILY, A SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN LOVE:
Where Life Begins and Love Never Ends



Archdiocese of Saint Boniface



Archdiocese of Winnipeg



Archeparchy of Winnipeg



Life's Vision

National Week for Life and the Family
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THE FAMILY, A SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN LOVE:

Where Life Begins and Love Never Ends

INTRODUCTION

What is the National Week for Life and the Family (NWLF)?

The National Week for Life and the Family (NWLF) is an annual initiative of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and occurs, this year from May 10 to May 17, 2015. In Manitoba, we have a tri-diocesan coordination committee whose mission is to assist parishes in recognizing, during this week and throughout the year, the importance of faith and Church in the lives of Catholics in our Archdioceses. In the first year of this initiative the theme was, "Celebrate Family, Nurture Life." All were encouraged to recognize the families and life of the Parish and celebrate it. Last year the theme was "Living Includes Dying. Protecting our unborn, caring for all until natural death." All were encouraged to discuss the issues pertaining to dying and to consider what each parish did to support the suffering people.

What is the theme for the NWLF for 2015 in Manitoba?

The theme this year is ***The Family, A School of Christian Love: Where Life Begins and Love Never Ends***. As is stated in the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, # 212: "The family has central importance... It is in this cradle of life and love that people are born and grow. When a child is conceived, society receives the gift of a new person who is called from the innermost depths of self to communion with others and to be giving of self to others. It is in the family, therefore, that mutual giving of self on the part of man and woman united in marriage creates an environment of life in which children develop their potentialities, become aware of their dignity and prepare to face their unique and individual destiny."

This year we encourage all to reflect on how we recognize our families as schools of love and faith and how our families help to build a world of justice, mercy and charity. It is our hope that each of us be able to relate to the topic in some way, as we are all part of a family. **We would like to take the opportunity of the National Week to challenge parishes to consider whether there is anything they can do to become more family-friendly. We would also like to encourage families to consider whether there is anything they can do to engage more fully with each other and with their Christian faith.** We would also like to take this opportunity encourage everyone to follow and discuss the issues being raised by Pope Francis' Synod on the Family and the upcoming Philadelphia World Meeting of Families.

Participating in the NWLF

Would your Parish be interested in putting on an event or activity during the NWLF?

In a joint effort to make the week a success, the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface, the Archdiocese of Winnipeg and the Archeparchy of Winnipeg are inviting each of their Parishes to partake in this initiative by promoting the week and organizing activities. (It could be as simple as hosting a potluck or a movie night!) Parishes are encouraged to organize one activity throughout the week, as well as to address the theme on both Sundays of the NWLF (May 10 & May 17).

Each Parish is free to decide of the type of programming that it would like to undertake during the week and how to celebrate. This Guide is simply a tool to help parishes by providing suggestions of activities and resources. Each parish may choose to use certain prayers, references or resources. In the planning of activities or events, parishes are encouraged to keep in mind that Catholics from outside their own congregation, as well as the general public, may wish to attend their activities if the parish chooses to make them accessible to everyone.

The tri-diocesan coordinating committee for NWLF requests that each parish submit the programming of their activities for the NWLF as soon as possible. Please do so by emailing NWLF.SNVF.Manitoba@gmail.com. A calendar of all activities organized throughout the Week in Southern Manitoba will be made available on the websites of each diocese, and will be updated as new events are sent in by parishes, as well as by pro-family and pro-life organizations. **NB: Please remember to indicate whether your programming is open to the public or not.**

Communicating with the Coordination Committee:

For questions regarding the NWLF, or this Activities and Resources Guide, please contact:

Archdiocese of Saint Boniface:

- Sophie Freynet-Agossa - Coordinator of the Service of Marriage, Family and Life : sfreynetagossa@archsaintboniface.ca; 204-514-9942

Archdiocese of Winnipeg:

- Patti Fitzmaurice - Coordinator of the Catholic Centre for Social Justice (Micah House): sjustice@mymts.net; 204-589-5393
- James Buchok - Director of Communications
jbuchok@archwinnipeg.ca; 204-452-2227 ext. 248

Archeparchy of Winnipeg:

- Marilyn Krochak – Representative for the NWLF tri-diocesan committee
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SECTION 1: SUGGESTIONS OF ACTIVITIES

Ideas for Families

- Families should be encouraged to participate in activities during the Week, and to reflect on how the time they spend together will help to foster their Christian faith and values. Check out the calendar of activities for the National Week on your diocese's website!
- Families can commit to doing something to enhance their family and spiritual life. Here are some examples: Planning to have 3 meals per week as a family and saying grace at mealtime or praying as a family at the end of the day. Perhaps it is simply creating or continuing little rituals that are unique to the lives of families, such as Friday night movies, pizza nights or volunteering at a local charity. Families may also have practices that celebrate the sacred: Baptismal Days or the Saint of the day. Any of these can serve as anchors in a turbulent world. *Parishes could have a commitment book for families to indicate what they are committing to do, to enhance how their family is a school of love.*

Ideas for Parishes

- Reflect on how to become more family-friendly. Host a brainstorm on the topic, perhaps over a potluck. (Consider the family-friendly pew insert in Appendix III!)
- Sponsor a family game night or a movie night that brings families together.
- Have a prayer rotation so that every family gets prayed for by the rest of the Parish.
- Have a special time for praying the Rosary with special intentions for families incorporated in the prayer.
- Provide an opportunity for each family to share how they practice their devotions: during bedtime prayer, through Advent or Lent traditions, etc.

NB: Parishes, please remember to communicate with the NWLF Coordination Committee ASAP, to share information about your upcoming activity. Details on page 2.

Ideas for the Church Community

- A group of families from each parish could plan to attend the March for Life which will take place on Thursday, May 14 at 11:30. Please note that it will be preceded by a mass at St. Mary's Cathedral at 10:30 am, which will be presided by Archbishop Richard Gagnon. See the poster in Appendix IV for more details!

SECTION 2: SUGGESTIONS OF PRAYER AND LITURGICAL ELEMENTS

Prayer for the National Week for Life and Family in Manitoba

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,
in you we contemplate the splendour of true love,
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too,
may be places of communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the Gospel, and small Domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again
experience violence, rejection and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,
make us once more mindful of
the sacredness of the family,
and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.

Amen.

*Adapted from the Prayer to the Holy Family for the
Synod III Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops
September 28, 2014*

Suggestions of Reflections for Parishes and Families

Sunday, May 10, 2015: 6th Sunday of Easter and Mother's Day

Reflection: *Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God: everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love, does not know God for God is love. 1 John 4:7-10*

Where do we learn love? From our beginning, cradled in the arms of our mothers and fathers, we learn what it means to care for another person, to nurture another person and to provide security. With the love of a family, one can go forth in the world with courage and confidence. Through that love we begin to learn and understand the love of God. As Pope Francis has said "How precious is the family as the privileged place for transmitting the faith" and "... it is very important to reaffirm the family, which remains the essential cell of society and the Church; the young people, who are the face of the Church's future; the women who play a fundamental role in passing on the faith and who are a daily source of strength in a society that carries this faith forward and renews it."

Monday, May 11, 2015

Reflection: *Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. John 16:2-3*

Do we know the Father or Jesus? Do our children know the Father and Jesus? What are we doing to learn and to abide in the love of God?

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Reflection: *Sirs, what must I do to be saved? They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your whole household." Acts 16: 30-31*

We believe but have we really thought about what it is we believe in? We believe in the resurrection and life eternal. We believe in the forgiveness of sin. What do we do as a family to convey our beliefs, both in practice and words?

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Reflection: *For 'In him' we live and move and have our being. Acts 17:28*

Do we live, move and allow our Lord to be all to us? Or is He something important but apart from whom we are? Are our lives and our families lived 'In Him'? How do we do this?

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Reflection: *This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:12-13*

In the family, we learn what it is to love. We begin to learn the depth of God's love for us through our love of one another. We learn to see God's love in one another, a love so great that we have to celebrate with each other.

Friday, May 15, 2015

Reflection: *Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice: you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy. John 16:20*

It is a rare life indeed that does not experience pain and sorrow, but with faith we have the strength to weather both pain and sorrow and know that the pain will turn to joy. When has this happened to you or your family?

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Reflection: *Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. John 16:24*

When we ask, the Lord hears and answers our prayers, maybe not in the way we anticipated but in a way that brings joy.

Sunday, May 17, 2015: Ascension of Our Lord

Reflection: *Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. Mark 16:15-20*

What is the good news we are called to proclaim? Where do we begin to learn about this good news? How do you and your family proclaim the good news? Do you share the love of God?

Suggestions of Reflections - Byzantine-Rite Calendar

Prescribed Liturgical Scripture Readings for the Ukrainian Catholic Church

The table contains the basic Scripture readings for the Divine Liturgy of the day.

The readings for both the Gregorian Calendar (6th week after Easter) and the Julian Calendar (5th week after Easter) are provided as these two calendars are in use in Manitoba.

Additional possible readings for the commemorations of more major Saints are noted and offered in the end notes.

Some basic themes that *may* be gleaned from the *Gospel* passages are listed and then *suggestions* are made as to how these ideas may be applied to the theme of the week – “life”, “family” and “family as a school of love”.

Date/Day	Gregorian Calendar Feast/Commemoration Daily Scripture Readings	Julian Calendar Feast/Commemoration Daily Scripture Readings
10 Sun ►	<p>Sunday of the Man Born Blind</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 16: 16-34 <u>Themes:</u> <u>Application:</u></p> <p>Gospel – John 9: 1-38 <u>Themes:</u> Blindness (both physical and spiritual); Healing; Miracle; Verification; Obstinacy in rejecting the Good News; Christ reveals Himself to the open heart; <u>Application:</u> Are we burdened because of “the sins of our fathers”? Christ makes the point that sin may at times be the cause of sickness (Mk 2:1-12), but not in every case. We all deal with the positive, and occasionally burdensome, ‘baggage’ of our family roots and situation, but we are all loved by our Lord and receive an abundance of divine grace and are called</p>	<p>Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 11: 19-26; 29-30 <u>Themes:</u> <u>Application:</u></p> <p>Gospel – John 4: 5-42 <u>Themes:</u> choosing to visit uncharted areas and choosing to encounter heretofore avoided individuals; bringing the Gospel to all peoples; Honesty before the Lord; Joy at the presence of Christ. <u>Application:</u> A life dedicated to our Lord involves Evangelization. It involves sharing the Faith with those around us throughout our entire lives. Without being obnoxious, but being tactful and sensitive, we should look for opportunities to share with others the joy and grace of the Gospel message and life in Christ. Certainly, we should not shy away if asked about why we believe</p>

	<p>by our Lord by name to follow Him and accomplish great things for His Church, for His People. No one need ever feel trapped in a life situation. By opening ourselves to the grace of God, many things are made possible...</p>	<p>what we do and what it means for our lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Lord knows our lives and our hearts and wants only that we know His love and grow in the joy of Salvation. We need never fear being honest with our God. Unless we desire something else, this honesty will always lead to reconciliation, growth in faith and understanding and an increased closeness to our Lord. - if we invite the Lord to stay with us and teach us, as the townspeople, we will learn amazing things and experience extraordinary peace and joy...
<p>11 Mon ►</p>	<p>Sts. Cyril and Methodius Teachers of the Slavs and Equal to the Apostlesⁱ</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 17: 1-15</p> <p><u>Themes:</u></p> <p><u>Application:</u></p> <p>Gospel – John 11: 47-57</p> <p><u>Themes:</u> Fear of the Truth; being wise about when to witness and when to be silent; can instructions from those in authority be unethical?</p> <p><u>Application:</u> The religious leaders were concerned more with the political and social consequences of Jesus’ teaching than the live-changing truth of His message. They attempted to silence Christ rather than allow the Gospel message to transform society. Are we tempted by that same reaction when it comes to the promotion of immoral social changes and legislation in our day?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus on occasion mentioned that His “time had not yet come”. He sometimes slipped away from potentially irreversible confrontations not because He feared the consequences, but because He needed first to complete certain tasks in His plan for our Salvation. On occasion we too must choose our battles and know when 	<p>Apostles Jason and Sosipater</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 12: 2-17</p> <p><u>Themes:</u></p> <p><u>Application:</u></p> <p>Gospel – John 8: 42-51</p> <p><u>Themes:</u> Jesus boldly confronts the people gathered around Him; He challenges them to have intellectual integrity</p> <p><u>Application:</u> At this time, Jesus does not mince words with those who endeavor to challenge and even attack His teachings and claims. Jesus responds in kind, but yet with composure and logical argumentation. He does not, however, couch his words with niceties or ambiguity. In fact He reveals truths that many present do not seem to understand. There are times, when we too must respond clearly and in an unequivocal manner so that those who confront us will hopefully understand beyond any shadow of a doubt.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Even Jesus’ stronger words and assertions are not mere insults, but warnings. He is after all the Son of God. We, not enjoying His insights for the most part, should follow His example in

	to leave some things for another day.	<p>responding with facts that we know to be true by both science or faith. Insults will often undermine our goal of being Apostles of our Lord, “Who wants all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1Tim 2:4).</p> <p>- We must be honest with ourselves and we must demand of others to be honest and logical in their positions on social matters, especially when they will affect the health, wellbeing and lives of themselves and others...</p>
12 Tue ►	<p>Venerable Epiphanius and Germanus</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 17: 19-28</p> <p><u>Themes:</u></p> <p><u>Application:</u></p> <p>Gospel – John 12: 19-36</p> <p><u>Themes:</u> Jesus approaches His last days; those wishing to enjoy life everlasting must understand the fleeting nature of this earthly life; Jesus’ heart is troubled, which is revealed by His manner of speech.</p> <p><u>Application:</u> Our lives as individuals and within a marriage and within our families may undergo challenging and seemingly dark times. These are times when we need support especially from those closest to us. When someone appears troubled and perhaps unusual and perhaps even difficult to understand, let us offer our support and attention rather than distancing ourselves. That may very well be a moment when they need us most.</p> <p>- There may be worrisome times that we must pass through on a personal level or on a scale that may involve many, even all of society. However, the Lord asks us to remain faithful and remain united with each other and know that, as in Christ’s earthly ministry, the triumph of the Lord is on the horizon.</p>	<p>The Nine Martyrs of Cyzicus Venerable Memnon the Wonderworker</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 12: 25 –13: 2</p> <p><u>Themes:</u></p> <p><u>Application:</u></p> <p>Gospel – John 8: 51-59</p> <p><u>Themes:</u> Jesus makes it clear that the day of the Lord is here; the religious elite are unable to recognize the day or comprehend the words of Christ; Jesus slips away for His time had not yet come</p> <p><u>Application:</u> Some of the people who came to hear Jesus were convinced that their religious knowledge would allow them to challenge His teaching. However, they were unable to grasp His lessons because in spite of their erudition, they were limited in comprehending the fulfilment of Scripture and lacking the faith to be moved by inspiration. Perhaps as in our own day, we spend much more time on the insignificant information of our secular society than the messages of Sacred Scripture, the Catechism and wisdom learned only through faith and practice. Do we not risk also misunderstanding our particular Christian vocation for our day?</p> <p>- Jesus will freely give himself over to be crucified for the sake of our salvation, but</p>

		<p>He will not allow it until the right moment. We too must “choose our battles” and be prudent and pastoral – especially when trying to help a family member in some way.</p> <p>- Lord, grant me the strength to change the things I can, the serenity to deal with the things I cannot change, and the wisdom to know the difference...</p>
13 Wed ►	<p align="center">Martyr Glyceria</p> <p>Epistle - Acts 18: 22-28</p> <p align="center"><u>Themes:</u></p> <p align="center"><u>Application:</u></p> <p>Gospel – John 12: 36-47</p> <p align="center"><u>Themes:</u> Many of the people who hear Christ and see His wonders are unable to believe; “many” do believe but do not admit it for fear of social repercussions; “I have come as light into the world”</p> <p align="center"><u>Application:</u> One may be amazed at times at the seeming silence that is heard from the direction of “believers” when family values are vilified or placed in peril by the social media or even government legislature. The surprise is there, because it is certain that there are many who do esteem Christian values that support and defend marriage and the family. But, perhaps as John writes, “they love the praise of men more than the praise of God”.</p> <p>- Christ is present in His world. He brings light and grace and... all power and authority. We need only cooperate with the grace that He readily shares with us. We realize that we need to and can do more to raise the Christian, Catholic voice in our day, not only as a defense, but as a hope-filled proclamation of the “Kingdom of God in our midst”.</p>	<p align="center">Apostle Jamesⁱⁱ</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 13: 13-24</p> <p align="center"><u>Themes:</u></p> <p align="center"><u>Application:</u></p> <p>Gospel – John 13: 13-24</p> <p align="center"><u>Themes:</u> Imitate the humility of Christ; Serve one another; in spite of betrayal the mission of Christ and the work of the Apostles must continue</p> <p align="center"><u>Application:</u> In the family, there are certainly those who possess authority whether in a traditional manner or in a way that was adapted due to circumstances. Yet even a family, which strives to reflect the loving relationships of the persons of the one triune God, can also take a lesson from the fraternity of the Apostles. They also enjoyed a wealthy diversity of gifts and strengths and, yes, weaknesses and limitations. Yet, by this command of Christ on the eve of His passion, they did strive as we must to always collaborate in love and respect and understanding; always complementing each other’s gifts and shortcomings.</p> <p>- perhaps a very difficult observation and application would be possibly having to accept that perhaps there may be one within or somehow present to the family that may choose initially and obstinately to betray and disrupt the peace and hopes of the whole. Somehow the mission and growth of the Apostles continued and they too fulfilled the will of the Father. In time</p>

		and with the whole remaining faithful to the Lord and to each other, such challenges will also pass... and often end in joyful blessing.
14 Thu ►	<p align="center">The Ascension of the Lord</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 1: 1-12 Themes: Application:</p> <p>Gospel – Luke 24: 36-53 Themes: “Peace to you”; teaching and explaining the truths of the faith again; the joy that the Lord, albeit not visible, is with us! Application: The disciples were with Jesus during His public ministry as he preached many, many times to the masses. He also gave special instructions and explanations to His Apostles and disciples. Yet here again the Lord, after His Resurrection, spends time teaching them and helping them to “connect the dots” with the Scriptures, Prophecies and why He did and taught as He did. We too should not hesitate to review time again our faith and discuss within our families as we progress in our spiritual journey. We will learn much over the years and what happiness to share our insights and progress with members of our family, both immediate and extended. - Even though our Lord is not visible until He comes again in glory, we may have a very real and powerful experience of Christ often - via prayer, discussion, charitable work and especially through the Holy Eucharist.</p>	<p align="center">Prophet Jeremiah Blessed Clement Sheptytsky</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 14: 20-27 Themes: Application:</p> <p>Gospel – John 9: 39 – 10: 9 Themes: The effects of spiritual blindness; Jesus minces no words with the religious elite; Jesus the Good Shepherd; Application: This reading opens with a confrontation between Jesus and some of the spiritual leaders of the day. It seems to go from uncomfortable to irretrievable when Jesus tells the leaders what He really thinks. They have built a wall around themselves that will be next to impossible to penetrate with Jesus’ words of salvation, because they have convinced themselves that they know all truth. - This Gospel reading, unfortunately, provides only half of Jesus’ Good Shepherd analogy. It would be good to read all of John 10:1-18. However, besides the obvious application to Christ and the His Church or His followers, we can also see family relationships. The unique bond between parent and children and between siblings... the exceptional love of parent for his/her child...</p>

<p>15 Fri ►</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Pachomius the Great</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 19: 1-8 <u>Themes:</u> <u>Application:</u></p> <p>Gospel – John 14: 1-11 <u>Themes:</u> “I am the way, the truth and the life”; the need to open the eyes of our minds and recognize Christ; “I am in the Father and the Father is in me”</p> <p><u>Application:</u> The Lord makes it very clear that He is our one and only Saviour and He is one with the Father. Because of this the path, the only way, to God is through the Son. Yet, those who open their hearts to the love of Christ are guaranteed the joy of knowing and encountering God.</p> <p>- We often hear in school that there is no such thing as a silly question. Well, Philip’s question offers the Lord an opportunity to challenge him and the other Apostles to wake up, if they haven’t by now, and recognize the mystery of the oneness of God and that Jesus, the second person of the Holy Trinity is fully God and truly man. To see Jesus is to see the Father. The Apostles will yet be fully introduced to the Holy Spirit at Pentecost</p> <p>- Before delving into Trinitarian theology, we can contemplate this assertion of Christ that to see Him, the Son, is to see the Father. How can this be compared to parent and child relationships in a family? How much are we a reflection of our parents?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Athanasius the Great</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 15: 5-34 <u>Themes:</u> <u>Application:</u></p> <p>Gospel – John 10: 17-28 <u>Themes:</u> “The Father loves me”; “My sheep hear my voice”; “I give them eternal life”; As the Father protects, so does the Son protect His own.</p> <p><u>Application:</u> The love between Father and Son described by Jesus that exists between Him and God the Father is everlasting. A beautiful example of the love that could and should exist between parents and children and is passed on from generation to the next. As the Father watches over and loves and glorifies the Son, so too does Jesus watch over His sheep... His Apostles and all His followers for all time. May families always develop and maintain such strong bonds of love and security. May the Church and society make every effort to support this ongoing development.</p> <p>- May every child at any age know and be able to declare about their parents with the certainty as Jesus did about our Heavenly Father... my father loves me, my mother loves me...</p>
<p>16 Sat ►</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Theodore the Sanctified</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 20: 7-12 <u>Themes:</u> <u>Application:</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Repose of St. Anthony of the Caves Monasteryⁱⁱⁱ</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 15: 35-41 <u>Themes:</u> <u>Application:</u></p>

	<p>Gospel – John 14: 10-21</p> <p>Themes: You will do these and even greater works; Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it; we are invited to share in the divine bonds of the Holy Trinity</p> <p>Application: Jesus assures us that whatever we require for our salvation, we need only ask Him and He will grant it! He speaks about the coming of yet the third person of the Holy Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Jesus also speaks of how He will always be with us and we need worry that we will be abandoned. He promises to always be with us.</p> <p>- Jesus also invites us, in a sense, to be part of the Trinitarian family. He comforts us with the promise that, “I am in the Father and you in me and I in you” and even more so, “he who loves me will be loved by my Father and I will love him and manifest myself to him”. The Lord continues to manifest Himself to us and renew us and strengthen through His Church, the Word, homilies and the sacraments – especially through the Eucharist where He is truly present, “body, blood, soul and divinity”!</p>	<p>Gospel – John 10: 27-38</p> <p>Themes: Jesus will watch over His flock; “I and the Father are one”; Jesus insists that His challengers would be honest at least with themselves.</p> <p>Application: Jesus here makes a promise so similar to parental responsibilities with regard to children. In fact this watching over the sheep that have been entrusted directly or by circumstance to one’s care has wider implications. Sheep follow the shepherd and necessarily submit themselves to his care and protection and rightfully hope for food and water and a dwelling, etc. Perhaps this may also be taken as an inspiration for providing loving care for all those in need... the elderly, the infirm, the dying, etc.</p> <p>- Here again, Jesus challenges His challengers to open their hearts to honesty and intelligence. If they find it difficult to accept His words or the authority by which He teaches, they must recognize His miracles which authenticate that He at least a Messenger of God if not in fact one who shares in the Divinity of God.</p>
17 Sun ►	<p>The Holy Fathers of Nicaea</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 20: 16-20; 28-36</p> <p>Themes:</p> <p>Application:</p> <p>Gospel – John 17: 1-13</p> <p>Themes: The opening of Christ’s Priestly Prayer; The relationship and cooperation between Father and Son; “that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves”</p> <p>Application: Christ comes to the end of His task that he was sent to perform and which he freely accepted. He came into</p>	<p>Sunday of the Man Born Blind</p> <p>Epistle – Acts 16: 16-34</p> <p>Themes:</p> <p>Application:</p> <p>Gospel – John 9: 1-38</p> <p>Themes: Blindness (both physical and spiritual); Healing; Miracle; Verification; Obstinacy in rejecting the Good News; Christ reveals Himself to the open heart;</p> <p>Application: Are we burdened because of “the sins of our fathers”? Christ makes the point that sin may at times be the</p>

	<p>the world. He taught us. He showed the way. He suffered and died for the sake of our salvation. He rose from the dead granting us all life eternal.</p> <p>- One can find various themes that can be applied to family life. The obvious being the great love between Jesus and His Father in heaven. How the Father is truly the prototype of fatherhood... loving the Son... unreservedly entrusting the Son with the realization of the great mystery of our redemption... being with the Son continuously, especially as He approaches that unfathomable moment of the passion and crucifixion... the total love and trust of the Son toward the Father... even at the darkest hour. "yet, not my will, but Yours be done!"</p> <p>- There is a great area to explore if comparing the love of Christ for His followers with the love of a parent toward those in family in need of care and protection – children, the inform and the aged...</p>	<p>cause of sickness (Mk 2:1-12), but not in every case. We all deal with the positive, and occasionally burdensome, 'baggage' of our family roots and situation, but we are all loved by our Lord and receive an abundance of divine grace and are called by our Lord by name to follow Him and accomplish great things for His Church, for His People. No one need ever feel trapped in a life situation. By opening ourselves to the grace of God, many things are made possible...</p>
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ⁱ Alternative or additional Scripture readings could be taken for the saints of the day – the "*Equals-to-the-Apostles*" Cyril & Methodius – Hebrews 7:26 – 8:2 and John 10: 9-16.

ⁱⁱ Alternative or additional Scripture readings could be taken for the saint of the day – the Apostle James – Acts 12: 1-11 and Luke 5:1-11.

ⁱⁱⁱ Alternative or additional Scripture readings could be taken for the saint of the day – the Monk Anthony – Hebrews 13: 7-16 and Matthew 11: 27-30

Prayers of the Faithful

Family-Related

- That our families be given the grace to put God at the centre of our lives and learn from him the generous love that makes marriages strong and families fully alive.
- That we may embrace our mission as love and glorify God by becoming a family fully alive in his grace. That Christ would fashion our families into places of welcome to the stranger, the lonely, the brokenhearted, and the lost.
- That our families be beacons of joy and love

Mother's Day-Related

- For our mothers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, we pray to the Lord.
- For mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them, we pray to the Lord.
- For mothers who have passed, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom, we pray to the Lord.

Special Mother's Day Blessing

Prayer over Mothers and Nurturers

This prayer over the people may be used at the end of Mass or other liturgical services on Mother's Day.

The calling of all women is to 'mother' – to nurture life. This blessing is inclusive of all women – those who are mothers and those who are not mothers. It allows them and the Church community to recognize their contribution to society as women of God.

*Before the blessing, the Pastor may ask all **mothers** and **grandmothers** to rise.*

*He may then offer **other women who have had a special role in the nurturing of children** to rise for the blessing as well. For example: Women who have cared for a child; helped a child to heal; or strived to create a just, safe and peaceful world for children. This may include **godmothers, aunts, teachers, care providers, etc.***

Blessing:

Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers and nurturers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honour them always with a spirit of profound respect.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

Then he blesses all present. And may almighty God bless you all - mothers, nurturers, women of God - the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

Adapted from: **Book of Blessings, prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy: a Joint Commission of Catholic Bishops' Conferences and The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota, 1989.*

Rosary Prayers

To pray as a family

Decade 1: For our marriage

Decade 2: For our children

Decade 3: For our extended family

Decade 4: For those who have died in our family

Decade 5: For our family to grow in our mission of love and for the grace to become fully alive as a family

Prayed by a single person

Decade 1: For my personal holiness

Decade 2: For my parents

Decade 3: For my brothers and sisters

Decade 4: For my extended family

Decade 5: For those who have died in my family

Prayed in the parish or a prayer group setting

Decade 1: For married couples

Decade 2: For parents and grandparents

Decade 3: For children

Decade 4: For those who are not married

Decade 5: That society would protect and foster family life and recognize the unique dignity of the family as the fundamental cell of society

SECTION 3: CATECHETICAL MATERIALS

“Christ - Our Passover”

A) Catechism of the Ukrainian Catholic Church

III The Christian Family as a New Creation

“Preserve their marriages in peace and oneness of mind,
raise the children, educate the youth,
support the elderly, comfort the weak,
bring together those who are separated.”
(from the Anaphora of St. Basil)

A. Christian Marriage

1. The Family – The Domestic Church

856. In the unity and love of the first married couple, the Church Fathers identify an image of the Church. The marriage union of a man and a woman is ecclesial by its nature, as the nature of the Church is illustrated in the unity of the married couple. In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul teaches about the mystery of the bond between Christ and the Church as a prefiguration of the marriage bond: “This mystery is a profound one, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the Church” (Ephesians 5:32). Married life is a “mystical icon of the Church”, a place of the presence and activity of Christ, a sign of new life. Saint John Chrysostom calls marriage “a little Church” that “remains day and night before the face of Christ”.

857. The Lord God blessed matrimonial love and accords it sacrifice and fruitfulness. It unites two persons, a man and a woman, in one whole that man may not separate: “What, therefore, God has joined together, let no man put asunder!” (Matthew 19:6). Matrimonial unity is realized in a mutual giving even to the point of self-sacrifice: “Men, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her” (Ephesians 5:25).

858. The Holy Spirit – “the treasury of good things and the giver of life” – bestows gifts upon marriage for a pious life in peace, truth, harmony and love. The ministry of marriage in Church consists of the building up of the Body of Christ in a community of faith and love and mutual sanctification. The Holy Spirit transforms the marriage community into a “domestic Church”. In the prayer of the Marriage Rite, the priest implores God with the request: “Lord, our God, crown them with glory and honour”.

6. Responsible Parenthood

896. Responsible fatherhood and motherhood does not consist only in the acceptance of new life, but also in the creation of suitable conditions for the total development of the child. Christian parents should be cognisant that the children given to them by the Lord belong, above all, to Him. These children of God in their earthly lives are merely entrusted to the care of their parents. The vocation of parenthood requires sacrificial love toward children. The good of the child is the highest goal of parental upbringing. This is why parents may not regard children as their *possessions* or use them as a means to obtain some other goal. Conversely, every child has a natural right to be born and raised in a complete family. The best method of raising children is the mature Christian behaviour of the parents themselves and their relationship between them as well as with other family members and members of society.

897. St. John Chrysostom reminds Christians that they are called to have children not only for the temporal life, but for life eternal. Besides material and psychological needs, a child also has spiritual needs. Religious and spiritual upbringing is an integral part of raising a child and the child's growth in God's grace.

B. The Christian Family and the Dignity of the Elderly

1. Care for Parents and other Family Members in need

898. In Sacred Scripture we read: "With all your heart honour your father, and do not forget the birth pangs of your mother. Remember that through your parents you were born; and what can you give back to them that equals their gift to you?" (Sirach 7:27-28) To honour your parents means to regard them with love, especially then, when they are weak and in need of care, for example, in old age.

899. [The Servant of God] Metropolitan Andrei in his teaching about the family spoke about the duty of children toward their parents: "... good Christians know how to keep the Fourth Commandment of God: 'Honour your Father and Mother'. Even when parents aren't good and, God forbid, are not deserving of respect, children nonetheless must honour them, for such is the law of God. Christians know the unfortunate fate of those who do not honour their parents". Metropolitan Andrei further counselled children by stating: "God, do not allow that among us any impious children would ever disrespect their parents, or worse, raise a hand against them. Do not allow it that any parents would ever have reason to decry their children!"

900. Children should care for their parents in times of illness, attend to their material needs and provide moral support in their old age. "O son, help your father in his old age,

and do not give him grief as long as he lives; even if he is lacking in understanding, show forbearance; in all your strength do not despise him. [...] Whoever forsakes his father is like a blasphemer, and whoever angers his mother is cursed by the Lord.” (Syr. 3:12-13, 16) Children should remember that respect and love for their parents is something that obliges them to care for them throughout their life. From this obligation, no one can ever be exempted. If parents have already passed from this life, then the obligation becomes Christian burial, fulfilling their last will, praying for them, tending their graves, and remembering the anniversary of their death.

Metropolitan Andrei, ‘On Marriage and Family’ (17 Feb 1902)

Prayers

PRAYER for FAMILIES

by METROPOLITAN ANDREI SHEPTYTSKY

Great God, O God of our Fathers! Grant to our nation many good and holy Christian families. Give us parents who will loudly and openly confess your holy Gospel and be in your service. Give us fathers who will be a good example of Christian life for their children, true protectors and good leaders in life. Grant us mothers who will be capable of bringing up their children in a Christian way, and a help and joy as well as good advisors for their husbands. Grant us children who will be the pride and joy of their parents and the splendour of their nation. Almighty God, bless us. Grant us the grace to faithfully serve You and one day to be granted the eternal reward in heaven. For You are a good and loving God and we give glory to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever.

Amen.

Боже великий, Боже отців наших! Дай нашому народові як найбільше добрих, святих християнських родин. Дай нам таких батьків, які голосно й відверто признавалися б до Божого Твого Євангелія і до Твоєї служби. Дай нам батьків, які для своїх дітей були б прикладом християнського життя, правдивими опікунами та добрими провідниками у житті. Дай нам таких матерів, які вміли б добре, по-християнськи виховувати своїх дітей, а для своїх чоловіків були б допомогою, потіхою та доброю порадою. Дай нам таких дітей, які були б потіхою для своїх батьків і славою та красою свого народу. Благослови, Всемогутній Боже, український народ. Подаруй йому ласку вірно Тобі служити і досягнути колись вічної нагороди в Небі, бо Тобі, Боже, у Святій Тройці Єдиний, Отче, Сину і Духу Святий, належить вся слава, честь і поклоніння на віки віків.

Амінь

A Prayer for a the Lord's Blessing upon Our Family

God, creator of humankind and our merciful healer, You granted your blessing that the family created by the bond of marriage would become an image of Christ and the Church. We ask You: grant Your blessing to our family gathered here in your name. May love dwell among us, as well as unity, a fervent spirit, perseverance in prayer, and caring for one another and for all our brothers and sisters in need.

Lord, Jesus Christ, Who lived in Nazareth together with your family, always dwell with our family, preserve us from every evil and help us be of one heart and one soul forever and ever. Amen.

Боже, Творцю людей та їхній милосердний Цілителю, Ти благоволив, щоб сім'я, створена подружнім союзом, стала образом союзу Христа і Церкви.

Молимо Тебе: подаруй Своє благословення цій сім'ї, яка зібралася в Твоє ім'я. Нехай у ній перебувають любов, єдність, палання духу, ревність у молитві, турбота одне про одного та про всіх нужденних братів.

Господь Ісус Христос, який жив у Назареті разом зі своєю Родиною, нехай завжди перебуває у цій сім'ї, береже її від усякого зла та допомагає нам бути єдиним серцем і єдиною душею на віки вічні.

Амінь

An unofficial translation

References:

Cf. St. John Chrysostom, Commentary on the Epistle to the Colossians, Homily 12:5.

St. John Chrysostom, Commentary on the Epistle to the Ephesians, Homily 20:6.

The Book of Needs: The Marriage Rite, the declaration at the crowning of the newlyweds.

Cf. St. John Paul II, Message on Children's Rights, to the Committee of European Journalists (13 January 1979)

John Chrysostom, Commentary on the Holy Gospel of Matthew, Homily 59:7.

Metropolitan Andrei, 'On Marriage and Family' (17 Feb 1902)

SECTION 4: RESOURCES

RESOURCE CENTRES

Roman Catholic Resources

- Archdiocese of St. Boniface Resource Library: 622 Tache Avenue (Winnipeg)
www.archsaintboniface.ca/resources/en

Ukrainian Catholic Resources

- Ukrainian Catholic Religious Education Centre: 233 Scotia Street (Winnipeg)
www.archeparchy.ca/page.php?id=13

Respect for Life Resources

- Life's Vision Manitoba - www.lifesvision.ca

ORGANIZATIONS/WEBSITES

- Catholic Organization for Life and Family - www.colf.ca
- Loyola Press - www.loyolapress.com
- Humanum Colloquium – www.humanum.it/en
- World Meeting of Family in Philadelphia - www.worldmeeting2015.org
- Serena Manitoba (Natural Family Planning) - www.serenamb.ca
- Service of Marriage, Family and Life - www.archsaintboniface.ca/main.php?p=405

BOOKS *(all are available through the Archdiocese of St. Boniface Resource Library)* :

- 101 Conversation Starters for Families, by Gary Chapman and Ramon Presson
- 101 Quick Questions With Catholic Answers: Marriage, Divorce, and Annulment, by Jim Blackburn
- The 5 Love Languages of Children, by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell
- Beyond the Birds and the Bees: Raising Sexually Whole and Holy Kids, by Gregory and Lisa Popcak
- How to Really Love your Grandchild in an Ever-Changing World, by Ross Campbell
- Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive, published for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia
- Parenting your Adult Child: Keeping the Faith (and Your Sanity), by Susan Vogt

VIDEOS

- High quality videos on the complementarity of men and women:
www.humanum.it/en
- Christian movie about what family is and why it matters in today's society:
www.thefamilyproject.ca/irreplaceable
- Video resources for parents who want to create strong Catholic families:
www.strongcatholicfamilies.org

SECTION 5: DESCRIPTION OF APPENDICES

I) Pastoral Letter

Letter from the Catholic Bishops of Southern Manitoba marking the National Week for Life and Family, held May 10-17, 2015. To be distributed to parishioners or read in the parishes on either May 10 or May 17, 2015.

II) Poster of the National Week for Life and the Family 2015

Poster to be printed and put up in parishes, to promote the Week.

III) Family-Friendly Pew Insert

Insert providing tips to parents of young children as well as to parishioners, to help to make the environment more 'family friendly'. Some Parishes may choose to print copies on 'cardstock paper' and place them in every pew.

IV) Manitoba March for Life Poster

Advertisement for the Manitoba March for Life, to be held on Thursday, May 14. The gathering for the March begins at the Legislative Building at 11:30 a.m., and ends there with speeches and testimonials.

NB: The March will be preceded by a prayer service at St. Mary's Cathedral at 10:30 a.m., with Archbishop Gagnon presiding.



May 10, 2015

*Letter of the Catholic Bishops of Southern Manitoba
Marking the National Week for Life and Family
10-17 May 2015*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the week of May 10- May 17, 2015, the Catholic Church in Canada celebrates its annual National Week for Life and Family. This yearly event is an opportune time to reflect on the dignity and sanctity of both Human life and the Family. Our theme this year is: *The Family, A School of Christian Love - where Life begins and Love never ends.*

The Christian Family Rooted in Scripture

A key scriptural principle taught by the Second Vatican Council was that each Christian is called to holiness. *"This is the will of God, your sanctification..."* (1Thess. 4:3). Since the family is the primary community in which a person matures, it is clear that the Christian Family should be a place where we are helped to grow in holiness. And holiness cannot grow without a life of love, and without love we would only be like a noisy gong or clanging cymbal (1Cor. 13:1-4). It is in fact, God's will that each of us increase and abound in love for one another and for all (1Thess. 3:12), just as the Lord has loved us (Jn. 13:34). With this in mind, St. John Paul II reminded us that at its heart, the Christian family is essentially missionary in character: *"The family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love"* (*Familiaris Consortio* #17). The Council and certainly the Church in recent times, has stressed the importance for the baptized to evangelize and this means becoming a witness, a missionary for the Good News and asks us to bring a message of God's great love for humanity to the modern world. Our faith teaches us that the Christian family is able to communicate God's love in a special way when it is lived as a sacramental sign of Christ's love for the Church (Eph. 5:21-32). But this gift of God's love is also a task to be undertaken. Christian marriage and by extension, Christian families, can be viewed as a true apostolate that is meant to serve others in love.

The Spiritual Mission of the Family in the World

The task of Christian spouses is to live and communicate this gift of love, first to each other and then to their children and ultimately to others around them. This is at the center of the family's mission in the world – a mission and a task that can only be learned within the school of divine love that the Christian family truly is. It is here that we begin to grasp the immense importance of the Christian family at the very heart of the Church's task to evangelize and when« the Christian family takes up the task to become what it is – *a living icon in our world of God's own communion of love within the Holy Trinity, (FC#17)* — it truly becomes a Domestic Church. In this way the Christian Family becomes fully alive.» (Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight, 7 Jan. 2014)

The Crisis of the Family Today

This reality that Christian families are meant to be schools of love means that they are a light of hope in our contemporary age. When Jesus said that he was the Light of the world (Jn. 8:12) he meant the same for every disciple and most certainly the family itself. It is very clear that the question of the family is becoming ever more crucial to the Church; in fact we can speak of a crisis of the family today, a crisis fueled by our prevailing culture of the individual. A culture that puts the “me” first; worships the “me”, and directs all our efforts towards self-realization with the individual prevailing over the common good of society and the rights of the individual prevailing even over those of the family. In such a context the personal choice for “no-commitment” cohabitation is becoming preferable for many people to the lifelong commitment of marriage and its interdependent relationships. The family's meaning is turned upside down to the point that it is no longer the “basic cell of society” but rather the basic cell of the individual with the “me” as the new measure of reality as well as the measure of marriage.

Moreover, just about everywhere in the developed world our laws reflect the primacy of the individual over the family. Within this environment, one can understand how the traditional family, as it has been understood for thousands of years, is ignored or worse yet, is vilified and persecuted. Sadly, the decline of the family unit has brought about a predictable weakening of society both from the sheer financial cost of the effects of family breakdowns in society as well as in our mode of life as a people. The sense of living within a community of families where we look out for others, especially in our cities, has given way to an avoidance of the other and to keep them from getting too close. We are now seeing a society with fewer families and children, and more people who choose to remain alone or live in or live in no-commitment unions. In addition, people have convinced themselves that they can “be family” in all sorts of different ways. Any kind of living together can be a family as long as there is love. With this development, the family is not so much rejected as to be simply grouped among other possible ways of living in relationships. This philosophy, in fact, is a way of demolishing the family step by step.

The Family as a Source of Hope

Yet in spite of the disintegration that we see in family life today, we know very well that any society rises or falls depending on the family. This is clearly seen in times of crisis throughout history where, without families, society would not survive. No other way of living can create the positive and lasting relationships that are found in the family, no other form of relationship has such societal

potentiality. Nowhere can humans fully learn and experience solidarity that family ties provide and the love and mercy without which other virtues lose their meaning. The family is an indispensable resource for society. This truth clearly shows that the family is unmatched as a school of love in which future citizens are formed in virtue and the Christian family itself, as a school founded in divine love, is a light for our time and culture. And if the Christian family is to be faithful to its vocation, it must allow the Sacraments to strengthen its life and mission. In this way the Christian family can truly become a Domestic Church. Pope Francis recently said: *"Families are the Domestic Church where Jesus grows; he grows in the love of the spouses; he grows in the lives of children. That is why the enemy so often attacks the family."* (Pope Francis, Rome, June 1st, 2014) In this statement by Pope Francis, we learn that the Christian family is a place of encounter not only on the temporal level but on the spiritual one as well.

What Must We Do?

The Church as the People of God must support families both in pastoral services and in the endorsement of family friendly social policies. We must begin to see the family as a resource to renew the parish and the Church. Marriage is not just a blessing for the couple, but like every sacrament, marriage is a gift of Grace given for the building up of the Church. The married vocation is not just fulfilled within the four walls of the family home but meant to be a building block of the Church and society. An Irish archbishop has stated that, *"We need a Church where the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ witnessed to within families and through families in the life of the Church."* (Bishop Diarmuid Martin, Dublin, June 14th 2014) And Pope Francis said there are three expressions that form the basis of family relationships: *"Please, Thank you, I'm sorry"*. These are expressions that you will not hear at the level of public debates, but they are in fact the opposite of what individualism means and are at the core of building loving relationships.

The failures of the Church have usually been failures in love. The Church needs to be a place where the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ is witnessed to in marriage and family and through the family into the Church itself. Every new marriage is an expression of the desire for happiness and fulfillment. There is need to build up a cultural climate in which that love can flourish. There is a great need to restore confidence in marriage and family today.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Pray for us!

Sincerely in Christ the Lord!

✙Albert LeGatt
Archbishop of Saint-Boniface

✙Richard Gagnon
Archbishop of Winnipeg

✙Lawrence Huculak
Ukrainian Archbishop of Winnipeg

The National Week for Life and The Family May 10 to 17, 2015

The Family, A School of Christian Love: Where Life Begins and Love Never Ends



Contact a Parish for Activities and Events in Your Community
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Boniface www.archsaintboniface.ca
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Winnipeg www.archwinnipeg.ca
Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg www.archeparchy.ca

TO THE PARENTS OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN, MAY WE SUGGEST...

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of the liturgy and actions of the pastor, elders, acolytes, choir, etc.

Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

Please let your child use the reverse side of this card to draw and doodle.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THIS CHURCH

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they remind us that our church is growing.

Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Children, feel free to do your artwork or words on the back of this page!

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Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of the liturgy and actions of the pastor, elders, acolytes, choir, etc.

Sing the hymns, pray, and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me."

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

Please let your child use the reverse side of this card to draw and doodle.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THIS CHURCH

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they remind us that our church is growing.

Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Children, feel free to do your artwork or words on the back of this page!

March for Life



Thursday, May 14, 2015

- 10:30 am** **Prayer Service at St. Mary's Cathedral with Archbishop Richard Gagnon**
- 11:30 am** **Gathering for the March on the Legislative Steps**
- 11:45 am** **Opening prayer and remarks by Archbishop Albert LeGatt**
- 12:00 pm** **March proceeds North on Memorial Blvd., East on York, South on Carlton, West on Broadway to the Legislative steps**

Design & bring your own signs!

Followed by Speakers at the Legislative Steps

- Silent No More Awareness testimonies
- Manitoba Youth Groups
- Closing remarks and prayer: Most Reverend Lawrence Huculak

God Bless you for partaking in this March for Life!

Conference Challenge 2015

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Time: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

Canad Inn, 1824 Pembina Highway

Sponsored by Campaign Life Coalition

Cost: \$25.00 per person

Contact: clcwpgmb@gmail.com

Or phone Maria at 204-452-2459



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