

## PA883DE Marriage & Family

### Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Provide basic assistance to parishioners in pastoral needs of their marriages and families
2. Using principles drawn from the Catholic Church's teaching on marriage and family, assist parishioners in their growth and healing in marital and family relationships.
3. Refer clients to appropriate community resources that represent Catholic values and beliefs.
4. Utilize existing resources from the U.S. Bishops website/s on marriage and family.
5. Educate staff and parishioners to available resources to strengthen marriages and families, with emphasis on normal developmental needs.
6. Distinguish between, pastoral counseling, spiritual direction, clinical counseling, and psychiatric needs of parishioners.
7. Reflect more fully on the integral relationship between the student's personal experience and the sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony.

### Course Description – PA883DE Marriage and Family

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#### Rationale

This course is based on the mandate given by John Paul II in *Familiaris Consortio*, "No plan for organized pastoral work at any level must ever fail to take into consideration the pastoral area of the family." [70]

Since families should be the first communities of evangelization and families often experience crises, Deacons and their colleagues in ministry must be sensitive to the need for a pastoral response.





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#### Course Focus

This course is designed to focus on the pastoral aspects of ministry with families.

Attention will be given to marriage preparation in the parish.

A vision for pastoral care of families will be developed by focusing on:

-  Church teaching,
  -  The dignity of marriage,
  -  The marital embrace, and
  -  The family
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Included Topics



The following topics have been chosen for this course since they are the most difficult topics in Marriage and Family ministry. They include:

- Family Life
- Marriage And Family Finances
- Marriage Preparation In The Church
- Mixed Marriages
- Domestic Violence
- Theology Of The Body
- Cohabitation And Marriage Preparation
- Family And Parenting Issues – Chastity Education
- Contraception
- Family Planning
- Social Aspects Of Abortion
- Married Spirituality

## Course Components

This course draws from the disciplines of:




 Pastoral Theology  
 Moral Theology

 Pastoral Counseling  
 Reproductive Medicine

to emphasize the critical importance of ministering to married couples and families as they seek to become “domestic church.”

## Course Material Integration

Materials used in this course will be drawn from:




 Church documents,  
 Current research, and  
 Practical pastoral experiences

in order to help students adequately respond to the issues faced by today’s families.





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**Module 1  
Family Life**

-  Reading
    - o Introduction and key points
    - o Familiarization and some reading of *Familiaris Consortio*
  -  Field work to make notes of pastoral agents in your community with whom you will make contact during the course
  -  Chat to discuss structure of class and get acquainted
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**Module 2  
Marriage and  
Family Finances**

-  Reading
    - o Introduction and key points
    - o "Live Simply? Live Shrewdly"
  -  View presentation on Marriage and Family Finances
  -  Reflect on presentation and journal your thoughts
  -  Field work to make contact with family financial planners
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**Module  
3 Marriage  
Preparation in the  
Church**

-  Reading
    - o Introduction and key points
    - o Snapshot of marriage in the US
    - o Six important trends in Marriage and Family life
    - o The Sacrament of Matrimony
  -  Notify your facilitator regarding the topic you have chosen for your homily or reflection due at the end of the course
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**Module 4 Mixed  
Marriages**





-  Reading
    - o Introduction and key points
    - o Catechism of the Catholic Church 1633-1667
    - o Part 4, Pastoral Care of the Family in Difficult Cases (78) *Familiaris Consortio*
  -  On the Forum, post and respond to others about an interesting experience you have encountered with mixed or disparity of cult marriages in your parish.
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**Module 5  
Domestic Violence**


-  Reading
    - o Introduction and key points
  -  View and read "When I call for help..." presentation
  -  Field work to make contact with women's shelter advocate
  -  Participate in audio conference call to discuss domestic violence and the Catholic response
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**Module 6  
Theology of the  
Body**




**NOTE: I question the use of Christopher West's recordings. Researching rights and identifying alternative materials.**

-  Reading
    - o Introduction and key points
    - o Christopher West's perspective on John Paul's theology of the body
    - o Review Part 2, The plan of God for marriage and the family, from *Familiaris Consortio*
  -  Listen to Christopher West's presentations
  -  Post and respond to others about how you feel toward Christopher West's style
  -  Suggest how you might use this information in your parish
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**Module 7  
Cohabitation &  
Marriage  
Preparation**

-  Reading
    - o Introduction and key points
    - o Living together
    - o Michael P. Orsi, "Pastoral Issues in Cohabitation,"
    - o *Marriage Preparation and Cohabiting Couples: An Information Report on New Realities and Pastoral Practices*
    - o Part 4, Pastoral action in certain irregular situations (80-81) in *Familiaris Consortio*
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**Module 8 Family  
& Parenting Issues**

-  Reading
    - o Introduction and key points
    - o Catechism
    - o The truth and meaning of human sexuality
    - o Part 3, Section II in *Familiaris Consortio*
  -  View presentation on Chastity
  -  Post and respond to others on the Forum about your experiences with parent groups in your parish
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**Module 9  
Contraception**

-  Reading
    - o Introduction and key points
    - o *Humanae Vitae*
    - o Catechism of the Catholic Church #369-373 and #2360-2379
    - o *Married love and the gift of life*
  -  Begin crafting your homily or reflection on the issues surrounding contraception
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**Module 10 The  
Potential of  
Natural Family  
Planning**

-  Reading
    - o Introduction and key points
    - o NaPro Technology
  -  Visit the Creighton Model and NaPro web sites
  -  View presentation on Natural Family Planning
  -  Post an experience you have encountered in your parish regarding natural family planning
  -  Field work to make contact with those who instruct couples regarding Creighton Model
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**Module 11 Social  
Aspects of  
Abortion**

-  Reading
    - o Introduction and key points
    - o Catechism of the Catholic Church 2270-2275
    - o *Post-Abortion Ministry – A Resource Manual for Priests*
  -  View presentation on post-abortion
  -  Visit the resources available at Rachel's vineyard web site
  -  Participate in chat to discuss the cases presented in the abortion presentation
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**Module 12  
Married  
Spirituality**

-  Reading
    - o Introduction and key points
    - o Part 3, The Role of Christian Life (17 - 64) *Familiaris Consortio*
    - o Homily from Raniero Cantalamessa
    - o Exhortation Before Marriage
  -  Re-acquaint yourself with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, *Part 4 - Christian Prayer*, 2558 - 2865
  -  View presentation on spirituality
  -  Record in your online journal your reflective thoughts on ideas gained, possible next steps ...
  -  Complete the online survey of course
  -  Complete your homilies or reflection and post them in the course.
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