

# SHARING Joy IN THE OF Love IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY



## EMPOWERING YOUTH TO SHARE THE JOY OF LOVE

The Scriptures and stories of saints remind us that God does not wait until someone turns 18 or 21 to call them to great things. Many of our great Christian saints and heroes were young people who listened daily to God in prayer and made courageous decisions to answer His call in their lives. As families and as a parish family we share the responsibility to call young people to great things and support them at every step along the journey.

### WE ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO SHARE THE JOY OF LOVE BY...

- strengthening your faith with your family (parents, siblings, grandparents, etc.) by praying and going to Mass and parish activities together;
- actively participating in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation and continuing to put your faith into practice as a fully initiated Catholic;
- becoming an active participant in the life of the parish through opportunities such as youth ministry programs, or as altar servers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, etc.;
- attending a retreat or conference during high school years.

## EMPOWERING YOUNG ADULTS TO SHARE THE JOY OF LOVE

Pope Francis reminds us that marriage preparation does not begin when you meet your future spouse or are engaged. "Marriage preparation begins at birth," and continues through each stage of our lives (*Amoris Laetitia*, 208). Whether you are single, engaged, or newly married, the best way to discern, prepare, or live into a vocation is to live your faith wholeheartedly and generously today.



### WE ENCOURAGE YOUNG ADULTS TO SHARE THE JOY OF LOVE BY

- not waiting until you feel "more settled" to join a parish community, volunteer and donate regularly;
- finding a small community to belong to: family, young adult community, small group, lay movement;
- finding a mentor or mentor couple you look up to and ask to meet them for dinner to talk with them and learn from their experience. Don't have one? Ask your priest for someone to recommend;
- forming habits today that you want to have later in life: eat dinner together at the table, pray before meals, attend Mass together every weekend, incorporate family traditions or develop new ones;
- learning more about your faith through ongoing spiritual reading, retreats, adult faith formation programs, and other opportunities.

Cardinal Wuerl has written a Pastoral Plan to teach and celebrate the gift and joy of love in the family and help families that are hurting.

At its heart, the pastoral plan applies the vision of Pope Francis' letter *Amoris Laetitia* to parish ministry and family life.

The plan has five parts:

**Part I**  
Amoris Laetitia's Teaching

**Part II**  
The Way of Faith and Contemporary Culture

**Part III**  
The Way of Accompaniment

**Part IV**  
The Importance of Parish Life

**Part V**  
Resources in Service of the Ministry of Accompaniment

See the pastoral plan, resources, and more at [www.adw.org/amorislaetitia](http://www.adw.org/amorislaetitia)

