

People

The first resource to reach out to are your parish priests, and deacons. They are an incredibly valuable resource. These additional resources may also be used:

- Rev. James W. Meade, J.C.L., Judicial Vicar
Marriage Tribunal
c/o The Pastoral Center
9292 Broadway
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
219.769.9292 ext. 223
jmeade@dcgary.org
- Rev. Brian D. Chadwick, J.C.L., Vicar General
c/o The Pastoral Center
9292 Broadway
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
219.769.9292 ext. 222
bchadwick@dcgary.org
- Rev. Sammie L. Maletta, J.C.L., Pastor
c/o St. John the Evangelist Parish
11301 W. 93rd Ave.
St. John, Indiana 46373
219.365.2703
- Sean Martin
Marriage and Family Ministries
c/o The Pastoral Center
9292 Broadway
Merrillville, Indiana 46410
219.769.9292 ext. 230
- Todd and Julie Zasada
c/o Retrouvaille
219.218.6702
www.helpourmarriage.com
- Rev. Mark Pranaitis, C.M., Executive Director
c/o Catholic Charities
940 Broadway
Gary, Indiana 46402
www.catholic-charities.org

Programs

- *Amoris Laetitia* Webinar Series: *The Pastoral Response in Accompanying Families in Faith*
National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry
(<http://www.nfcym.org/amorislaetitiawebinar>)
- Session 1: *Listening to the Joys and Hungers of Families*
Dr. Tim Hogan,
Director of Grace Counseling Center – Detroit, Michigan
- Session 2: *Accompanying Families*
The Most Reverend Richard Malone,
Bishop – Diocese of Buffalo, New York
- Session 3: *Assisting Families in Discerning God’s Movement*
Julianne Stanz,
Director of New Evangelization – Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin
- Session 4: *Engaging for Mission*
Cardinal Donald Wuerl,
Archbishop – Archdiocese of Washington

- The Alexander House: Marriage Disciples
(<http://www.christianmarriagecoaching.org>)
210-858-6195

- Retrouvaille
(<http://www.retrouvaille.org>)
800-470-2230

- Pastoral Tele-Counseling Services
(<http://www.catholiccounselors.com>)
740-266-6461

- The Third Option
(<http://www.thethridoption.com>)
855-624-9476
- BELOVED – Home Addition: Finding Happiness in Marriage
(<http://www.augstineinstitutue.org/formed/beloved/>)
866-7673155 option 1
- The Cana Institute
(<http://www.canaistitute.org>)
314-313-0613
- The Couple Prayer Series
(<http://www.coupleprayer.com>)
- Discovering Our Deepest Desire
(<http://www.ourdeepestdesire.com/>)

- 937-262-7010
- National Marriage Encounter
(<http://www.marriage-encounter.org>)
515-278-8458
 - Catholic Charities –Diocese of Gary, Indiana
219-886-3549 x331

Books/Printed Media

- Text of *Amoris Laetitia*
(<http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost-exhortations/documents/papa-francesco-esortazione-ap-20160319-amoris-laetitia.html>)
- *Seek First the Kingdom* blog post by Cardinal Wuerl: *On Love in the Family: The Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis*
(<http://cardinalsblog.adw.org/2016/04/on-love-in-the-family-the-apostolic-exhortation-of-pope-francis/>)
- Introduction to *Amoris Laetitia*
(<http://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Introduction-to-amoris-laetitia.pdf>)
- *God's Plan for Love*
(<http://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Gods-Plan-for-Love.pdf>)
- *Love in Marriage and Family Life Part 1*
(<http://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Love-in-Marriage-and-Family-Life-Part1.pdf>)
- *Love in Marriage and Family Life Part 2*(<http://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Love-in-Marriage-and-Family-Life-Part2.pdf>)
- *Raising Children of Faith*
(<http://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Raising-Children-of-Faith.pdf>)
- *The Church is a Church of Families*
(<http://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/206/05/The-Church-is-a-Church-of-Families.pdf>)

- *Ten Insights for Family Life*
(<http://adw.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Ten-Insights-for-Family-Life.pdf>)
- *Amoris Laetitia 'The Joy of Love': A study guide for Pope Francis' message to the church about marriage and family*
(<http://ncronline.org>)
- *NACFLM Resource Guide: Tools for Marriage and Family Ministers*
National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers
(<http://nacflm.org/resource-guide>)
- *Archdiocese of Washington Office of Family Life*
(<http://visiblesign.org>) or (#VisibleSign)
- *U.S. Catholic Bishops, Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan*
(<http://usccb.org/lovenadlife/MarriageFINAL.pdf>)
- USCCB President: *Amoris Laetitia, A tremendous Gift for Church and Families in the U.S.*
(<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/amoris-laetitia.cfm>)
Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz,
Diocese of Louisville, Kentucky
- Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family Welcomed by USCCB Family Life Committee Chairman
(<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/amoris-laetitia.cfm>)
- *Share truth of family with mercy, help those struggling, pope says*
CNS ARTICLES
(<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/amoris-laetitia.cfm>)

Events in Diocese

- Rev. Brian D. Chadwick, J.C.L, Vicar General
(contact information above)
Fr. Chadwick is willing to offer workshops across the diocese

Speakers

- Deacon Daniel Lowery can give a presentation called “Root Sin.” It is an interactive session examining the concept of “root sin” as developed by Thomas Aquinas and Ignatius of Loyola and others. Biblical readings are used to examine the roles that sensuality, pride and vanity can play in our lives.
Length: variable: 1.5 to 3 hours
Format: lecture and small group discussion
Recommended Audience: adults
Recommended Audience Size: up to 100
Recommended Season (if any): Lent
Preparatory Work: none
Presenter: Deacon Daniel Lowery
Contact Information: (219) 473-4338; dlowery@ccsj.edu
Equipment Requirements:PowerPoint

Best Practices

“Amoris Laetitia therefore calls for a sensitive accompaniment of those with an imperfect grasp of Christian teaching on marriage and family life, who may not be living in accord with Catholic belief, and yet desire to be more fully integrated into Church life, including the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist”.

“Well-meaning people can err in matters of conscience, especially in a culture that is already deeply confused about complex matters of marriage and sexuality, a person may not be fully culpable for acting against the truth”.

“Priests and deacons, moved by mercy, should adopt a sensitive pastoral approach in all such situations – an approach both patient but also faithfully confident in the saving truth of the Gospel and the transforming power of God’s

grace”.

“Priests and deacons should strive to avoid both a subjectivism that ignores the truth or a rigidity that lacks mercy. As with all magisterial documents, Amoris Laetitia is best understood when read within the tradition of the Church’s teaching and life”.

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Archbishop Charles Chaput,

Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Pastoral Guidelines for Implementation of Amoris Laetitia

“Amoris Laetitia is not a list of answers to each individual human issue. Nor is it directed solely to the question of the reception of the Eucharist. The apostolic exhortation calls for a compassionate pastoral approach to many people – married, single, and divorced – who are struggling to face issues in life, the teaching of the Church, and their own desire to reconcile all of this. The exhortation is a call to compassionate accompaniment in helping all to experience Christ’s love and mercy”.

“Our priestly task is to teach and minister pastorally to those entrusted to our care. We are to present clearly the teaching of the Church rooted in Sacred Scripture and expressed in the living magisterium of the Church. We should do this with wisdom, compassion and fidelity, but we cannot replace the action of individual conscience in reaching personal conclusions. By definition, this is what conscience does (cf. CCC 1778”).

“To the extent that our ministry includes listening, accompanying and discerning it is also an EVANGELIZING action. As we recall the challenge to go out, to encounter, and to accompany, we also recognize that this is at its heart an act of the evangelizing disciple”.

“In the action of going, encountering, sharing and accompanying, we also recognize that in the journey, we – ourselves – are also drawing closer to the Lord. In all of our evangelizing, teaching, catechizing, counseling, admonishing, and instructing, we also remember both God’s liberating truth and saving mercy. None of us can claim yet to be perfect as is our heavenly Father. But we can grow closer to the Lord who will by his grace heal us so that we can have the life he wants for us”.

“One reason why – I believe – so many priests have greeted this apostolic exhortation with joy and satisfaction is that we are grateful for this guidance as we do what we have always tried to do – walk with our people as shepherds guiding the flock while we all try to come closer to Jesus – the Good Shepherd and our Risen Lord”.

“Even in the midst of their challenges and imperfections, families are called to respond to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Admittedly, this individual process of discernment may not be easy. A person may know full well Church teaching, Pope Francis notes, yet have great difficulty either in understanding its inherent positive value, or in being able to fully embrace it right away because of circumstances (AL, no. 301). Yet, the underlying moral principle which should inform both that personal discernment and the priest’s ministry is that a person whose situation in life is objectively contrary to moral teaching can still love and grow in the faith, and he or she can still take steps in the right direction and benefit from God’s mercy and grace while receiving the assistance of the Church (AL, no. 305)”.

Cardinal Donald Wuerl,

Archbishop of Washington

Letter to the Priests on ‘Amoris Laetitia’

“We are grateful to our Holy Father, Pope Francis for the gift of his Apostolic exhortation “Amoris Laetitia, On Love in the Family.” He has given us a lengthy and significant teaching on the Joy of Love. This is a document that demands a careful reading and reflection from Catholics everywhere, and it is sure to bear great fruit. Pope Francis shows himself to be the gentle, merciful pastor who urges us all to take the time to meditate on the importance of

families, for as he says, "The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the Church." (AL 31)."

"Amoris Laetitia brings together the deliberations of the two Synods on the family convoked by Pope Francis in 2014 and 2015, and draws on a long history of Church teaching. This Apostolic Exhortation numbers over three hundred twenty five paragraphs, and it is not intended to be read and implemented too hastily. In the introduction to the document, Pope Francis notes that no one should rush through reading the text, but that the greatest benefit will come if each part is read "patiently and carefully", paying particular attention to those parts dealing with the specific needs of the reader. (AL 7)"

"Rather than try to draw immediate conclusions from the text, we are urged to reflect upon it and to ponder, patiently and carefully, what the teachings will mean for the Church and for her ministry to families".

"During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, in which the Church celebrates the love and unending mercy of God, Amoris Laetitia is a joyful invitation for families to live the works of mercy and to receive the gift of God's healing where there is sin and brokenness. As he has done time and again, Pope Francis challenges us to approach the weak with compassion, to "enter into the reality of other people's lives and to know the power of tenderness." (AL 308) It is my fervent desire that we will read Amoris Laetitia patiently and carefully, so as to benefit from the richness of its teaching".

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM, Cap.

Archbishop of Boston

Statement on Amoris Laetitia