

Office of Family Life

- Marriage Preparation Program - These programs are offered four times per year at a central location in the diocese. Engaged couples attend one Saturday program from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Presenter couples from the diocese present on the following topics: communication, conflict resolution, prayer, spirituality, interfaith issues, NFP, parenting, finance, career, and sacramentality of marriage. Couples share prayer time, discussion time and Holy Mass with their fiancé.
- Ethics and Respect Life Ministry - The Family Life Office acts as the Bishop's liaison to Catholic health care facilities and maintains an appointment on the ethics committee of a Catholic hospital in the diocese. Individual ethics consultations are provided upon request. Respect Life activities include work with EnCourage Ministry, coordinating attendance of Catholic high school students at March for Life activities, resource for promotion of pro-life activities on the diocesan and parish level, and networking support for pregnancy help centers throughout the diocese.
- Diocesan Wide NFP Program - the Family Life Office coordinates the efforts of all certified NFP providers to ensure that couples throughout the diocese have services available to them. The Marriage Preparation Program provides an introductory NFP presentation to all engaged couples and refers them to NFP providers in the diocese.
- Diocesan Ethics Conference - The Ethics Conference is designed to be a source of continuing education for the health care providers in the diocese. Likewise, it is an opportunity for the people of the diocese to receive education on life issues related to the dignity of the human person and bioethical and medical issues with special emphasis on the moral, ethical, and religious framework for decision-making.
- Strengthening of Marriage and Family Life – The Family Life Office coordinates Marriage Preparation ministry and is a resource for initiatives in marriage enrichment. It offers support and services to families suffering from infertility, and miscarriage, as well as support to deal with the life events of individuals and families from the beginning of life to the end of life. The Office of Family Life also acts as a resource for programs related to chastity education and the Theology of the Body.
- Education Regarding Religious Freedom and Respect Life – The Office of Family Life works in cooperation with the Office of Social Concerns and the Minnesota Catholic Conference to inform the people of the diocese about issues of religious freedom in the public square. Training is provided to prepare individuals to become advocates for Catholic values.