



Memo

Date: February 1, 2016

To: Clergy, Parish Administrators, Marriage and Family-Life Ministers

From: Daniel West, Marriage, Family and Pastoral Care; Office of Formation & Discipleship

Re: 2016 National Marriage Week Resources

The USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth highlights various resources for National Marriage Week (February 7th-14th) that may be of assistance to you and your parish.

Preaching Resource – Based on the readings for World Marriage Day, Sunday, February 14th. This [preaching resource](#) has a suggested emphasis on marriage and mercy this year.

Bulletin Insert – This insert utilizes social science data to highlight marriage as a great good in itself and as a gift to the married couple, their children and society. It is available in [color](#) and [black and white](#).

Virtual Marriage Retreat – This is the second annual online seven-day retreat for married couples during National Marriage Week. This year's theme is "Marriage and Mercy." A printable version of the retreat is available [here](#). Couples can also receive each day's content via a Facebook event on the [For Your Marriage Facebook page](#). Last year, 1,030 people participated in the retreat this way!

Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage, and Religious Liberty

During National Marriage Week, dioceses and parishes can consider promoting Friday, February 12th as a day of prayer and sacrifice with this intention: "May all husbands and wives renew their commitment to love in good times and in bad." More about the Call to Prayer is available at www.usccb.org/pray.

Resource Websites – As always, the USCCB websites [For Your Marriage](#), [Por Tu Matrimonio](#), and [Marriage: Unique for a Reason](#) have many resources for engaged and married couples, as well as those who would like to promote and defend the authentic meaning of marriage.

National Marriage Week USA – The organizers of National Marriage Week, host a nationwide calendar of marriage programs, events, and conferences. Information is available on their website:
<http://www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org>.

If you need more information regarding these resources, please contact 404-920-7631 or dwest@archatl.com.