

The Pastoral Care of Marriage and Family Life
- a three year project

Unit 1: Setting out together

Pentecost to Advent 1987

Contents

Introduction: Setting the scene theologically.

Section A: Social and Community Action Projects.

- Welcoming schemes for newcomers
- Babysitting provisions
- Mothers and Toddlers Clubs
- Pre-School Playgroups
- Housing Advisory Service
- Unemployment and the family
- Useful reading
- Useful addresses

Section B: Talking points for families and groups.

- Newly married
- Deciding to start a family
- Becoming parents
- Coping with young children
- Resources

Section C: Natural Family Planning

- General Background
- Some books to help

Section D: Baptism

- Why people ask for Baptism
- Ideas for Baptismal preparation
- Resources

Section E: Dealing with difficult situations

- What do I say? Reflections on what to say to a mother who has had a miscarriage
- Baptising a baby with a disability (homily notes)

Section F: Liturgy

A Homily notes for selected Sundays

- 12th Sunday of the year (theme: "Do not be afraid").
- 15th Sunday of the year (theme: fruitfulness).
- 24th Sunday of the year (theme: learning to forgive).
- Other possible Sundays and themes (3).

B The use of the Sunday Liturgy to express the theme

Some suggestions as to how married couples can be involved in the Sunday Liturgy.

C Various Blessings

- 1 Blessing before childbirth (from "Blessings for God's People". Ave Maria Press).
- 2 Blessing before childbirth (from "Services for Church and Home". Redemptorist Publications).
- 3 Blessing of parents before childbirth (including adaptations which can be made when the father is not present). (From "A Book of Blessings", Canadian Bishops' Conference.)
- 4 Blessing of parents after childbirth (Ibid.)
- 5 Welcoming an adopted child. (Ibid.)
- 6 A blessing of parents whose child has died. (Ibid.)
- 7 Various short blessing for parents. (Ibid.)
- 8 A ceremony of preparation for baptism (from an interim text from St Thomas More Centre).
- 9 Initiation of a baptised child into the Church (Ibid).
- 10 Blessing on the Baptismal Anniversary (from "Blessings for God's People". Ave Maria Press).

Note: The above texts have been given as examples of the sort of liturgies which can be created for use in the home or in Church. They are not definitive texts or in any sense exhaustive. Local circumstances may require further adaptation and development.