

## Course Objectives - PA883DE Marriage and Family

### Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the Deacon will be able to:

- Assist parishioners in pastoral needs of their marriages and families
- Using principles drawn from the Catholic Church's teaching on marriage and family, assist parishioners in their growth and healing in marital and family relationships.
- Become familiar and comfortable with referring to appropriate community resources that represent Catholic values and beliefs.
- Become more familiar with and utilize existing resources from the U.S. Bishops website/s on marriage and family.
- Educate staff and parishioners to available resources to strengthen marriages and families, with emphasis on normal developmental needs.
- Distinguish between, pastoral counseling, spiritual direction, clinical counseling, and psychiatric needs of parishioners.
- Reflect more fully on the integral relationship between the deacon's personal experience of the sacraments of Holy Orders and Matrimony.

### Course Description – PA883DE Marriage and Family

#### Rationale

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This course is based on the mandate given by John Paul II in *Familiaris Consortio*, "No plan for organized pastoral work at any level must ever fail to take into consideration the pastoral area of the family." [70]

Since families should be the first communities of evangelization and families often experience crises, Deacons must be sensitive to the need for a pastoral response.

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#### Course Focus

This course is designed to focus on the pastoral aspects of ministry with families.

Much attention will be given to marriage preparation in the parish.

A vision for pastoral care of families will be developed by focusing on:

- Church teaching,
  - The dignity of marriage,
  - The marital embrace, and
  - The family
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#### Included Topics

The following topics have been chosen for this course since they are the most difficult topics in Marriage and Family ministry. They include:

Family Life

Cohabitation And Marriage Preparation

Marriage And Family Finances

Family And Parenting Issues – Chastity Education

Marriage Preparation In The Church

Contraception

Mixed Marriages

Family Planning

Domestic Violence

Social Aspects Of Abortion

Theology Of The Body

## Married Spirituality

### Course Components

This course draws from the disciplines of:

- Pastoral Theology
- Moral Theology
- Pastoral Counseling
- Reproductive Medicine

to emphasize the critical importance of ministering to married couples and families as they seek to become “domestic church.”

<b>Module 1</b>	<b>Family Life</b>
<b>Module 2</b>	<b>Marriage and Family Finances</b>
<b>Module 3</b>	<b>Marriage Preparation in the Church</b>
<b>Module 4</b>	<b>Mixed Marriages</b>
<b>Module 5</b>	<b>Domestic Violence</b>
<b>Module 6</b>	<b>Theology of the Body</b>
<b>Module 7</b>	<b>Cohabitation &amp; Marriage Preparation</b>
<b>Module 8</b>	<b>Family &amp; Parenting Issues</b>
<b>Module 9</b>	<b>Contraception</b>
<b>Module 10</b>	<b>The Potential of Natural Family Planning</b>
<b>Module 11</b>	<b>Social Aspects of Abortion</b>
<b>Module 12</b>	<b>Married Spirituality</b>