

National Pastoral Initiative for Life and the Family

Theme for the Week:

Families: United with Joy in Jesus Christ



National Week for Life and the Family – May 11 – 18, 2014

- This is a national initiative uniting Catholic families from all Dioceses across Canada. Please consider including this fact on any information or material regarding the week that you decide to send out within your own Diocese.
- This is an excellent week to highlight Mary as the mother of Jesus; May Crowning can be related to Mary as Mother of us all.
- All Dioceses should highlight the poster and prayer card on their web pages and consider social media as a way to promote the message as well

Support to be provided to each Diocese for use:

- Posters in French and English and Prayer Card/Bookmark in French and English (Dioceses should encourage the poster to be put up in every parish, Catholic school and Catholic organization in their Diocese.)



Suggestions for Promotion of Week:

- Sample Prayers of the Faithful for each week are included for parish use.
- Pastors in every Diocese are encouraged to take up this initiative in support of families.

Diocese of Hamilton Family Ministry Office

- We are encouraging you to read the Pastoral Letter, coming from the CCCB President, on the weekend of May 11 or May 18. This is a national letter showing the support for families is a unified effort.
- Pro-life March – encourage attendance at March in Ottawa; consider local, parish based pro-life initiatives during the week.
- Bulletin Announcements – from scripture, Church documents providing information on the role of families in the Church for both weekends; consider this same initiative one or two weeks preceding and one or two weeks after the Week for Life and the Family.

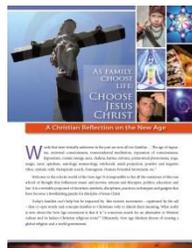


Other possibilities to consider for your Diocese or Parish:

- Vigil for Life and Family
- Devotion to Our Lady – this could include a May Crowning, but when advertised connect the event to the Week for Life and the Family.

Possible Events and Activities for the Week:

- COLF Brochure and Workshop at Parish or Diocesan Level from their two new documents: As a Family Choose Life: Choose Jesus Christ and Bullying: A Plague to Combat Together



- Family Bible Study Night(s) – a one to three night workshop guide is available through the Hamilton Diocese and could be used easily by parish staff or volunteers; it is a ready to go resource.

Diocese of Hamilton Family Ministry Office

- Public Testimony – given by a family at beginning and end of the week describing the importance of faith in their life.
- Parish Organized Family Involvement (Faith in Action) – parishes could encourage families to visit sick, elderly, or housebound members of their extended families, friends or neighbours; organize a community project for families to engage in; organize a parish project for families to engage in; have a parish fundraiser on the two Sundays bookending the week and give the donations of goods or monies to prolife and/or community agencies that help families.
- Wedding Anniversary Celebration on a Diocesan level – either during the Week of Life and Family, or close to it.
- Movie Night – encourage a family movie night on one of the weekend evenings; invite all families in area, not just “church-going” families.
- Family Photo/Video Evening – encourage families to remember past and important occasions one night during the week at their own home.
- Parish Barbeque – for families with activities.
- Parents Appreciation Dinner – supported by youth group.



The above initiatives are all meant to promote the importance of family and to focus on the value of life and family in the Catholic faith. We encourage you to engage with families during this National Week for Life and the Family.