

Section 4. Accompanying Families in Need

Accompaniment can take the form of personal presence, care, and compassion. It may also mean providing support, practical resources, and referrals for professional assistance. The steady, patient, compassionate accompaniment that a follower of Christ offers another person invites him or her “to let themselves be healed, to take up their mat, embrace the cross, leave all behind and go forth ever anew to proclaim the Gospel” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 172) and then to accompany others as missionary disciples (see *EG*, no. 173)

Group	Mission	Support	Resources
<i>Supporting Married Couples in Welcoming New Life</i>	Educate couples on the gift of children:	Offer parish/diocesan pro-life events that foster respect for life in the womb	* Humanae Vitae
	As the fruit of the marital act	In the context of an event or Mass, the Rite of Blessing a Child in the Womb	* Diocese of Paterson- Walking with Moms in Need
	As the supreme gift of marriage		Diocese of Paterson Natural Family Planning
	On how to discern/pray together for openness to life		Praying for (and With) Your Spouse: The Way to Deeper Love
	On the Church’s moral teaching re the transmission of life	Collaboration with/support for services for difficult pregnancies (pro-life pregnancy centers and adoption agencies)	How to Pray the Daily Examen for Couples
	Educate the parish community on the Church’s teaching re the gift and beauty of human sexuality and respect for life at all ages	Review of parish/diocesan programs, ministries, & policies to ensure consistent awareness/response to the needs of families.	Discerning Hearts Ignatian Spirituality
			The Examen Prayer
			Pray, Decide, Don't Worry by Jackie & Bobby Angel
			Hallow Catholic Prayer & Meditation App
		Flexible working arrangements for parents who serve the Church	A Prayer Initiative for Marriages
	Parish/diocesan affordable daycare or babysitting services (compliant with child protection policies)		
	Facilities/arrangements to assist the participation of parents with young children at Mass or other liturgical celebrations		
	Offer a comprehensive list of trusted resources		

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<i>Accompanying Married Couples in Crisis</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Married couples to know how clergy, pastoral leaders, and parish staff are willing/able to help them through marital distress</p> <p>Clergy/pastoral leaders on how to offer assistance on the individual needs of the couple</p> <p>Community of the faithful to recognize/respond appropriate when a couple is struggling</p> <p>Educate:</p> <p>Couples who may be able to mentor/assist couples in crisis</p>	<p>Have a parish network of couples who can accompany married couples with prayer, friendship, and support</p> <p>Have parish/diocesan trained marriage coaches who can provide professional help</p> <p>Offer opportunities for renewals/retreats by ecclesial movements, ministries, & apostolates dedicated to marriage ministry and renewal</p> <p>Offer materials/resources that provide guidance/encouragement to couples in crisis</p> <p>Offer a comprehensive list of local, vetted marriage counselors</p>	<p>Marriage Help Retreat For Struggling Couples</p> <p>Marriage Mentorship</p> <p>Relationship Coaching</p> <p>Book for Struggling Couples</p> <p>Diocese of Paterson Resources</p> <p>Diocese of Paterson Marriage Enrichment Training</p> <p>Pornography Addiction Coaching</p>
<i>Accompanying Couples Who are Separated or Divorced</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Couples affected with counsel of reconciliation and instruction on purpose/processes of obtaining a declaration of nullity if necessary</p> <p>Children of affected couples in their inherent dignity and their belonging to the Church</p> <p>Beauty and sacramentality of Christian marriage</p> <p>Clergy and parish staff on ways to assist with consideration if it is abandonment, involuntary divorce, or abuse)</p>	<p>Offer ministries to provide pastoral care to affected couples and their children</p> <p>Offer training sessions in the rules of faithful discernment & the logic of mercy in truth to help respond sensitively to needs</p> <p>Offer resources that address issues involved in separation/divorce, especially the effects on mental health, children, finances, etc.</p> <p>Offer information events on applicable canonical processes</p>	<p>Diocese of Paterson Training in Divorced Catholic Ministry</p> <p>Diocesan of Paterson Support Groups</p> <p>Diocese of Paterson- The Annulment Process</p> <p>*Diocese of Paterson- La Nulidad Del Matrimonio Catolico</p> <p>Surviving Divorce: Hope and Healing for the Catholic Family</p> <p>Divorced Catholic Resources</p> <p>Divorced. Catholic. Now What?: Navigating Life After Divorce</p> <p>When Parents Divorce (Catholic Guide for Kids)</p>

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<i>Accompanying Parents Who Are Unable to Conceive a Child</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Couples on the manifold ways fruitfulness is made possible by their marriage</p> <p>Couples with instruction in:</p> <p>NFP methods</p> <p>Ethics of assisted reproductive technologies</p> <p>What the Church teaches and why</p> <p>Clergy, pastoral leaders, and parish staff to be mindful of spouses without children in the parish community</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Parish faith formation on Catholic moral teaching/ethics of assisted reproductive technologies</p> <p>Guidance for couples to discern the many forms of marital fruitfulness (such as adoption & foster care)</p> <p>Pastoral outreach events for couples without children:</p> <p>Special liturgies</p> <p>Prayer events</p> <p>Small faith-sharing groups</p> <p>Retreats</p> <p>Facilitate network-building with couples in the same situation</p> <p>Comprehensive list of trusted resources on:</p> <p>Medical professionals with interventions that align with Church teaching</p> <p>Local fertility awareness classes</p>	<p>*Humanae Vitae</p> <p>Catholic Reproduction and Fertility Support</p> <p>Catholic Reproduction and Fertility Support</p> <p>Diocese of Paterson Natural Family Planning Classes</p> <p>*Online Natural Family Planning Classes</p> <p>Catholic Medical Resource for Infertility</p> <p>USCCB Resources</p> <p>Bethany Christian Adoption Services</p> <p>Fostering Morris and Sussex County</p> <p>Foster and Adoption Services NJ</p> <p>Barren Amongst the Fruitful</p> <p>The Infertility Companion for Catholics: Spiritual and Practical Support for Couples</p> <p>Adoption: Choosing it, Living it, Loving it</p> <p>While We Wait: Spiritual and Practical Advice for Those Trying to Adopt</p>
<i>Accompanying Couples Toward Marriage in the Church: Convalidation</i>	<p>Educate on the meaning of convalidation in adult faith formation classes and child catechesis</p> <p>Educate clergy and parish staff to assist couples living in irregular situations about whether/how their marriages can be regularized</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Guidance through the convalidation process</p> <p>Adult faith formation classes/information sessions on sacramentality of marriage & the canonical process of convalidation</p> <p>Engage marriage programs, ministries, and resources to support/assist civilly married couples through the process</p>	<p>Bringing Your Marriage Into the Church</p> <p>*Convalidation in the Catholic Church</p> <p>Marriage Prep Resources- Convalidation</p> <p>Diocese of Paterson Marriage Prep</p> <p>*Preparación para el Matrimonio</p> <p>Blended Families</p>

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<i>Accompanying Single Adults</i>	<p>Educate single adults:</p> <p>By helping them recognize the Lord’s call to prayer & service in their present circumstances</p> <p>To an awareness of vocational discernment with the help of spiritual direction</p> <p>To an awareness of vocational discernment with attention to one’s relationship with Christ</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Parish/diocesan-sponsored events for single adults to encourage fellowship</p> <p>Opportunities for vocational discernment and spiritual growth</p> <p>Programs/resources for single adults in a parish or diocese (such as financial planning, respite care for family members, etc.)</p>	<p>Diocese of Paterson Young Adult Ministry</p> <p>*Diocese of Paterson Young Adult Ministry-Corazon Puro</p> <p>Diocese of Paterson-One Way Discipleship Formation</p> <p>Loyola Jesuit Center (Retreat and Spirituality Center)</p> <p>St. Mary's Abbey Discernment Program</p> <p>Spiritual Direction</p>
<i>Accompanying the Widow or Widower</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Widows/Widowers of the ways they can intercede for the soul of their loved ones by means of prayer, Mass offerings, and works of mercy</p> <p>Clergy, pastoral leaders, and parish staff to be mindful of widows/widowers in the parish and invite them to participate in the parish</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Opportunities for widows/widowers to meet and gather for mutual support</p> <p>Lay associations, ecclesial movements, ministries and apostolates:</p> <p>Provide spiritual and moral support</p> <p>Tend to their physical or financial needs, particularly if children are involved</p>	<p>Diocese of Paterson Bereavement Resource Page</p> <p>Bereavement Resources</p> <p>Bereavement Ministry Facilitator Training</p>
<i>Accompanying Families Experiencing Addictions</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Families/the faithful on how to help when someone they know is dealing with an addiction</p> <p>Clergy, pastoral leaders, parish staff, Catholic school educators & catechists to recognize/respond to situations that may warrant intervention or assistance</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Opportunities for prayer, retreats, etc. for those suffering and their families</p> <p>Instruction for clergy, pastoral leaders, and parish staff to recognize the needs of families of those affected and assist them</p> <p>Programs that raise awareness at the parish/diocesan levels about addictions and how to cope with them</p> <p>A comprehensive list of referrals for counselors, treatment facilities, and support group</p>	<p>*Diocese of Paterson- Straight and Narrow Treatment</p> <p>Local Education and Prevention Catholic In Recovery</p> <p>Learn to Cope Online Meetings</p> <p>Quit Heroin</p> <p>Grief Recovery After Substance Passing</p> <p>Operation Prevention Parent Toolkit</p> <p>*Diocese of Paterson Catholic Charities Resources</p>

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<i>Accompanying Grandparents and the Elderly</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Grandparents to better understand their important role of transmitting and forming the faith of their grandchildren and the community at large</p> <p>Families to recognize, appreciate, and respect the elder members in their midst as they age</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Opportunities to recognize the elderly/grandparents with intergenerational gatherings where young and old can encounter each other meaningfully</p> <p>Activities that involve the elderly/grandparents at Catholic schools or faith formation programs so they can share their knowledge and love of the faith</p> <p>Outreach to the elderly in assisted living facilities/senior care centers, ensuring they have access to the sacraments and visitors</p> <p>Training opportunities for extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and other volunteers to provide for physical, material, and spiritual needs of the elderly</p>	<p>*Catholic Charities Senior Activities Program</p> <p>*Catholic Charities Paterson Adult Day Center</p> <p>Catholic Charities Meals on Wheels</p> <p>Catholic Charities Operation Fix It</p> <p>Catholic Charities Hope Connection</p> <p>USCCB: Grandparents & Elderly</p> <p>Catholic Grandparents Association</p>
<i>Accompanying Families Experiencing Domestic Violence and Abuse</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>The faithful on Church teaching about the dignity of each person, love of neighbor, and incompatibility of domestic abuse with our faith.</p> <p>That grave mental/physical danger to a spouse/child is legitimate cause for severing conjugal living</p> <p>Clergy, pastoral leaders, parish staff, educators about the signs of domestic violence, abuse, and neglect of children;</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Spiritual/material support for victims/survivors such as retreats, opportunities for prayer, spiritual direction, etc.</p> <p>Workshops that discuss church teaching with information about the signs of domestic violence and how to help based on reporting laws</p> <p>An easily accessible list of contacts for counselors, shelters, and local agencies</p>	<p>State of NJ Domestic Violence Resources</p> <p>*A Pastoral Response to Domestic Violence Against Women</p> <p>*Diocese of Paterson Catholic Charities Resources</p>

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<i>Accompanying Caregivers of Family Members</i>	<p>Educate families in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meaning of human suffering God’s plan of redemption The beauty and richness of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick Church teaching re ethical forms of care or end of life questions How to advocate for their loved ones in order to protect their God-given dignity at every stage Educate the parish family: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be mindful of families supporting the sick or disabled Offering acts of charity through corporal & spiritual works of mercy Educate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clergy, pastoral leaders, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to sensitively care for/provide spiritual nourishment by those affected and their families 	<p>Offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remembrance in prayer for all those who are caring for the sick, aging, and disabled Small groups for caregivers to share their experiences and challenges, pray together, and support each other Workshops to address caregiving from a faith perspective and impact on marriage/family dynamics Information sessions and resources on Church teaching concerning ethical forms of care advance directives, and end of life questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholic Caregiver Community Online Support Catholic Caregivers Online Resources Nourish for Caregivers Online Resources Caregivers of New Jersey Courage for Caregivers Diocese of Paterson End of Life Resources
<i>Accompanying Single Parent Families</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single parents on the resources/assistance that the parish community can provide Clergy, pastoral leaders, and parish staff on how to handle with sensitivity the various situations that may be present in single parent homes 	<p>Provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs or retreats designed to alleviate the unique burdens and needs, especially mindful of unwed women who are raising a family or expecting a child Childcare and financial assistance, as needed, to allow single parents to attend parish/diocesan events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Diocese of Paterson Catholic Charities *Diocese of Paterson- Walking with Moms in Need

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<i>Accompanying Families with Members Who Have Disabilities, Chronic Illness, or Mental Illness</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Parishioners with a disability, chronic illness, or mental illness with catechetical resources that address their needs</p> <p>Clergy, pastoral leaders, parish staff, catechists, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion on how to respond to the needs of those affected</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Catechetical resources/classes tailored to those affected</p> <p>Opportunities for prayer, spiritual guidance, and formation as appropriate</p> <p>Accessibility/accommodations at churches and parish/diocesan events (physical access, large print resources, and sign-language interpretation if possible)</p> <p>Resources to parishes to help sensitivity to the needs of affected members</p> <p>Comprehensive list of community-based educational, transitional, medical, and respite support/services</p>	<p>*Diocese of Paterson- Department for Persons with Disabilities Resources for Families, CRE/DRE Pastoral Care Religious Education Support for Families Cancer Companions</p> <p>*Diocese of Paterson Catholic Charities Resources</p>
<i>Accompanying Couples Who Have Lost a Family Member, Especially a Child</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Grieving parents/families on what the Church teaches regarding:</p> <p>Miscarriage Infant death Suicide Forgiveness/vengeance Hope of the Resurrection The stages of grieving</p> <p>Pastoral leaders/parish staff on how to meet the needs of the family with professionalism and compassion</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Parish/diocesan education events focused on coping with death and the stages of grief</p> <p>Opportunities for grieving families to meet each other for mutual support and comfort</p> <p>A comprehensive list of counselors for spiritual and emotional support</p> <p>Train pastoral leaders/parish staff to assist grieving parents/family (process of funeral and burial, meals, financial help)</p>	<p>Diocese of Paterson Bereavement Resource Page Bereavement Resources Bereavement Ministry Facilitator Training Hannah's Hope: Seeking God's Hope in the Midst of Infertility, Miscarriage and Adoption Loss</p>

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<i>Accompanying Families with Incarcerated Members</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Christian/Catholic families to understand the nature of the evangelization and service they are called to by conforming their actions to the principles of Catholic social teaching</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>A network of spiritual and moral support for families of those affected by engaging parish volunteers who can build a relationship with them and extend friendship and support on behalf of the parish</p> <p>Opportunities for catechesis and sacramental preparation tailored for the situations of ex-offenders</p> <p>Services to those affected and their families such as:</p> <p>Transportation Meals Employment assistance Counseling programs Mentoring opportunities</p> <p>A comprehensive list of local and community resources for individuals and families affected</p>	<p>Catholic Prison Ministries Lighthouse Media Loaves & Fishes Magazine Ministering to Families of Incarceration Catholic Prison Ministry Catholic Social Teaching on Incarceration Hope House Food Pantry- Dover Fr. English Food Pantry- Paterson PSS Food Pantry- Franklin *Diocese of Paterson Catholic Charities Resources</p>
<i>Accompanying Intercultural Families</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Clergy, pastoral leaders, and parish staff by providing intercultural competency training</p> <p>The parish community about the different cultures represented by the families in their midst</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Events that highlight the many cultures represented in the Catholic community</p> <p>Small circles of families with similar backgrounds to encourage friendship and support Incorporation of permissible cultural customs and traditions at liturgical celebrations and parish events</p>	<p>*USCCB: Multicultural Parish Resource, Best Practices for ‘Shared Parishes’ *Catholic Charities El Mundo De Colores *Catholic Charities El Mundo De Nino *Catholic Charities Friendship Corner 2</p>

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<i>Accompanying Mixed and Interreligious Marriages and Families</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Engaged couples with a non-Catholic member on the challenges of a mixed or interreligious marriage</p> <p>Engaged couples with a non-Catholic member on the obligation to baptize and educate their children in the Catholic faith to the extent possible</p> <p>The non-Catholic member in a mixed or interreligious marriage about the Catholic faith while avoiding proselytism</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Education and social events sponsored at parish/diocesan levels for non-Catholic spouses to learn about the faith, when appropriate, with diocesan ecumenical and interfaith activities leader</p> <p>Ecumenical prayer services and retreats for both Catholic and non-Catholic spouses</p> <p>Opportunities to meet and support other spouses in similar circumstances in the parish or diocesan community</p>	<p>For Your Marriage: Ecumenical and Interfaith Marriages</p> <p>For Your Marriage: When Your Spouse Isn't Catholic</p>
<i>Accompanying Migrant, Refugee, and Immigrant Families</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Migrant, refugee, and immigrant families of the resources and provisions offered them by the parish or diocesan/eparchial community that may include catechesis, formation and preparation for the reception of sacraments</p> <p>Educate:</p> <p>Clergy, pastoral leaders, parish staff and parish community on appropriate and effective ways to welcome</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Welcome sessions for those affected to integrate them into the life of the parish and tend to their sacramental needs</p> <p>Catechesis for migrant, refugee, and immigrant couples and families especially for sacramental preparation and special needs (such as resolving invalid marriages)</p> <p>Material, spiritual, and moral support and resources for those affected such as:</p> <p>Language tutoring</p> <p>Legal assistance</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Work opportunities</p> <p>Schooling for their children</p>	<p>*Parish Activities to Help Immigrants, Migrants, Refugees and People on the Move</p> <p>NJ Catholic Conference on Immigration: Information & Resources</p> <p>Catholic Charities Food Pantry</p> <p>*Catholic Charities El Mundo De Colores</p> <p>*Catholic Charities El Mundo De Nino</p> <p>*Catholic Charities Friendship Corner 2</p>

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<i>Accompanying Families with Members Who Experience Same-Sex Attraction or Sexual Identity Incongruence</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Those with same-sex attraction or sexual identity incongruence about God’s Plan for sexuality and His call to chaste love</p> <p>Parents, families, and the parish community on the Church’s teaching concerning the human person and the Christian redemptive/restorative vision of human sexuality</p> <p>On how to responsibly hand on these truths to one’s children</p> <p>Family members on guiding values and principles to assist them with difficult decisions regarding their family member’s same-sex sexual behavior, invitations to same-sex ceremonies (consideration for the nature of marriage as man & woman and what attendance would signify)</p> <p>Families and the parish community on the dangers of “gender-affirming” hormonal/surgical interventions and provide information from sound science on these topics</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Workshops, seminars, and/or classes to instruct the parish community on Church teaching on the dignity of persons and human sexuality</p> <p>Ongoing instruction/guidance for clergy, ministry leaders, and parish staff on how to offer pastoral support to affected persons and their families</p> <p>Formation for spiritual directors, confessors, and mentors who can listen/accompany with</p> <p>compassion by encouraging lifestyles that reflect God’s design for human sexuality</p> <p>Small group workshops/seminars for families to provide practical advice on how to make decisions regarding a family member’s relationships:</p> <p>How to discuss distinctions among the person, inclination, and action</p> <p>Establish healthy boundaries</p> <p>Communicate love without affirming choices contrary to Catholic teaching</p> <p>Resources and support groups that adhere to Church teaching and explain the Church’s pastoral teaching with truth and charity</p> <p>Comprehensive list of referrals for counselors with a Catholic perspective to assist affected persons and their families</p>	<p>*On the Pastoral Care of Homosexual Persons</p> <p>LGBTQ Response Resources</p> <p>Courage International</p> <p>The Eden Invitation</p> <p>Desire of the Everlasting Hills</p> <p>The Third Way: Homosexuality and the Catholic Church</p> <p>Video: Meaning of Human Sexuality</p> <p>"Why I Don't Call Myself Gay"</p> <p>Teaching Resource</p> <p>*Marriage: Unique for a Reason</p> <p>For Access to the Diocese of Paterson: Theology of the Body for Parents contact the Office of Family Life</p>

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<i>Accompanying Military Families</i>	<p>Educate:</p> <p>Clergy, pastoral leaders, and parish staff on appropriate ways to support military couples and families dealing with the challenges of transitions, trainings, deployments, and relocation</p> <p>Pastoral leaders and the parish community to recognize the gifts that military families bring to their parish, even if only for a temporary amount of time</p> <p>The parish community on how to actively welcome military families and invite them to engage in the life of the parish.; parishioners who are veterans can take an active part in this ministry of hospitality</p>	<p>Offer:</p> <p>Opportunities for catechesis and ongoing faith formation to returning veterans and their families, especially sacramental preparation for children</p> <p>Material, spiritual, and moral support and resources for the affected with a deployed family member and for veterans and their families transitioning to civilian life</p> <p>Prayer services or other liturgical moments for veterans who may be dealing with the challenges of injuries (visible or invisible, PTSD, or moral injury)</p> <p>Spiritual and moral support for veterans at local veterans hospitals and homes</p> <p>Comprehensive list of community-based professionals and services for veterans and information about the Archdiocese of the Military Services</p>	<p>Catholic Charities Supportive Services for Veteran Families</p> <p>Archdiocese of the Military Services, USA Marriage Enrichment Initiative Geared Toward Military Couples</p> <p>Military Council for Catholic Women</p> <p>The Word Among Us Military Ministry</p> <p>Lighthouse Catholic Media Military Support Association</p> <p>Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary of the USA</p>