Thought from Pope Francis...

“In the family we learn how to love, to forgive, to be generous and open, not closed and selfish. We learn to move beyond our own needs, to encounter others and share our lives with them. That is why it is so important to pray as a family! That is why families are so important in God’s plan for the Church!”  (Pope Francis, 16 January 2015 Manila, Philippines)
Celebrating Lent in the Home

Prayer for Life prayer cards, an invitation to pray for life during Lent will be sent to all parishes.

Families and Lent article intended for publication in the February edition of the BBN.

Lenten Journey for Families reflections will be sent to parishes in coming weeks.

Lenten Family Biblical resource will be sent to parishes in coming weeks.

The Stations of the Cross for Families resource will again be sent to all parishes.

New Resource

The newest project to emerge from the SmartLoving stable – The Stick Kit http://thestickkit.co/

The Stick Kit aims to be the global hub for online relationship education. Launched in September last year, The Stick Kit is an online learning platform designed to focus on strengthening relationships for the better. The Stick Kit aims to make relationship education easy and accessible online.

Currently two courses are available:

1. The Marriage Kit is all about helping your relationship be the best it can be. You will enjoy refreshing insights, coupled with practical tools and a dash of humour to reinvigorate your relationship. Join Dr Byron & Francine Pirola who have over 20 years’ experience in authoring relationship programs, as they lead you through this engaging course.

2. The Making Families Happy Parenting Program is designed for parents and delivered by Dr Justin Coulson PhD, one of Australia’s most trusted voices when it comes to parenting. You will enjoy sound information, practical parenting strategies and lots of fun "from the trenches" stories. Justin writes a weekly column for Sydney’s Daily Telegraph, appears regularly on Channel 9’s Mornings, the TODAY show and The Project and is the parenting expert at kidspot.com.au. Justin and his wife also have 6 children, so he knows just how tough parenting can be!

Both courses available on The Stick Kit qualify for the Stronger Relationships Trial funded by the Australian Government and attract the $200 subsidy. This means that eligible couples can access the courses for FREE or very close to it.

Family Evangelisation Forum

Faith and Families: How do we nurture and support the domestic church?

Tuesday 24 March, Wednesday 25 March and Thursday 26 March (one day in each region same program for each day).

The three days will feature an introduction from Bishop Peter and input Dr Aoife McGrath (an adjunct professor in Pastoral Theology at the Pontifical University, Maynooth in Ireland.) along with a variety of workshop streams highlighting specific ministry areas. See flyer attached

I am sure it will be helpful for your ministry if you are able to attend and would ask for your assistance in promoting the event in your parish context.

Website of Note

http://www.pluggedin.com/aboutus.aspx

Christian entertainment review service providing valuable information for parents about the exact content of contemporary movies and games. It reviews things such as positive elements, sexual content, violent content, language, drug and alcohol content and provides an overall ‘content caution’ rating.

Marriage Enrichment Opportunities (subsidized by the Diocese)

World Wide Marriage Encounter (www.wwme.org.au) residential weekends at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW:

6th – 8th March
19th – 21st June
11th – 13th September
20th – 22nd November

SmartLoving Marriage Seminars and Workshops (http://marriageresourcecentre.org/parishes/)

See website for details of coming events

Couples for Christ (www.cfcaustralia.org)

See website for details of coming events

Information/reminders about the above will be forwarded to parishes closer to the dates.

Your support in working with your parish leadership to promote some of the above, as appropriate to your role/parish context, is greatly appreciated.

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