



SOCIAL JUSTICE KIT

LIFE AND MARRIAGE

INTRODUCTION

The family is the first and fundamental school of living: a community of love.

The self-giving that inspires the love of a husband and a wife for each other is the model for the self-giving relationships between brothers, sisters, parents and children. Cf Pope John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*, 1981

This intimate community provides our first experience of love. It is where people learn the importance of sharing, care for those who are ill, overcoming disagreements and offering forgiveness.

Good marriages and healthy, happy families do not just happen automatically. They need to be nurtured, encouraged and protected. The Church provides support to families to help them live fulfilled and connected lives.

DISCUSSION: What is your experience of family?

ISSUES

Australian families are under pressure. Many families in our Diocese find themselves at the margins.

Increasing financial pressure, including the spiralling cost of basic services and housing, threaten the role and stability of families in our society.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement for 2012-13 celebrates the role of families in our society and urges all Australians to consider the pressures and challenges that families face today.

Australia's Bishops urge us to take the Holy Family as our inspiration.

As Christians we are called to be supportive of families, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Our society cannot ignore the fundamental needs of families or fail to respond adequately to those families in crisis.

EXERCISE: Get a copy of the 2012-13 Social Justice Statement (hint: see resource guide). List the key issues discussed.



Figure 1 Family

THE WORD OF GOD:

Select a Bible passage relating to family

REFLECTION: Share your Bible passages. Note some thoughts that come to mind

GROUP EXERCISE:

Do you know any families that are struggling?

How can we help a family that is not coping?

ACTION: Is there something I can do right now to promote life and marriage?
