

Ordained/Consecrated Life

Your family's effort on your ministry

The relationship patterns formed in one's immediate family can carry over to ministry situations. So the more mature your relationship is with parents, siblings, nieces, and nephews, the freer you will be to have effective relationships with those in your ministry life. This is true whether your family members are easy to be with or very dysfunctional. What counts is staying connected—knowing what is going on in each other's lives. Dealing with the messiness of family life is an essential part of the call to everyday holiness. It keeps one in tune with what parishioners deal with.

Ministry to families

Helping families become holy is the goal of any ministry to families. The holier families are, the stronger the parish. The diocesan Family Life Office has various ministry ideas and resources to use to help families live up to their calling to be "domestic church." These ideas are not programmatic, but simply entail adapting what a parish already does to make it more helpful to families. For example, including a note in the bulletin about the availability of marriage counseling; including a segment on the importance of family meals in the parents' First Eucharist meeting or mailing.

Contact the Family Life Office for more ideas, a presentation at a parish staff or council meeting, materials for Family Life Committees.

See also the National Association for Family Life Ministers website: www.nacflm.org