



Marriage & Family Life E-Bulletin No 27 May/June 2008

Marriage & Family Life Project Office,
Department of Christian Responsibility & Citizenship,
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

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email elizabeth.davies@cbcew.org.uk

Project websites

www.celebratingfamily.org.uk

www.everybodyswelcome.org.uk

www.homeisaholyplace.org.uk

www.passingonthefaith.org.uk

Diary Dates

Marriage Encounter Weekends

Four weekends take place
between now and the end of the
year with places still available.
[Check the website for details.](#)

Association of Interchurch Families. 40th anniversary

celebration. Swanwick. 23-25

August. Email:

info@interchurchfamilies.org.uk

Home is a Holy Place: Resource Pack

The Home is a Holy Place Resource Pack has now been despatched to most dioceses. [Check here for details of your local contact](#) for information about obtaining the packs and when they might be launched locally. (A free pack is available to each parish in England and Wales.) The Project Office has received a number of favourable responses already, this being the most recent: *"I have just spent a lovely evening perusing the Home is a Holy Place resources online. Your team has made it all so accessible. I am presenting to a Methodist group on Friday about bringing more of God into everyday life and relationships and look forward to incorporating some of your material. I shall definitely promote the resource pack."* [Download the printed resources online here.](#)

Nottingham Launch Event



The Home is a Holy Place Resource Pack was launched in Nottingham diocese on Saturday, May 10th at Our Lady of Lourdes, Mickleover in Derby. The day was organised by diocesan coordinator for marriage and family life Fr John Sherrington and was designed to answer three questions: Where has this pack come from? What can we do with it? Where do we start? Participants were drawn from a wide network, including those active in marriage and family life ministry, adult education, spirituality, justice and peace, the diaconate and pastoral planning. An evaluation postcard received after the event said: "I thought the material was excellent – inclusive and adaptable. I shall use it in lots of ways in my work as a Catechetics coordinator." [Read more...](#)

Day For Life 2008

This year's [Day for Life](#) takes place on July 6th with a focus on mental health. Please look out for the Day for Life leaflets in your parish and make sure they are circulated as widely as possible. Each one of us is affected in some way by mental ill-health, either personally or through friends and relatives. It's really important that those affected know that the Church really does care about them and wants to reach out to them. The Day For Life leaflet is a very effective tool for this. You might also want to download, distribute and use copies of [What is Life Like if You Or Someone in Your Family has Mental Health Problems?](#) The Everybody's Welcome website has recently been updated with a report on the [Day of Reflection](#) on mental ill-health at Llantarnum Abbey on February 24th.

Familias launch

Launch of a new Association for Catholic Diocesan Marriage and Family Ministry. Hinsley Hall. Wednesday, September 10th. More details to follow.

Parents Week 2008

October 20-26th. Theme: Getting it right for families. [More info](#).

Project Resources available:

Home is a Holy Place: Resource Pack. Now available [Further details](#)

Family – An Adventure in Love

An A4 four page glossy leaflet for help communities of faith celebrate their households of faith. [Details and order form](#).

What is Life Like? A set of 7 leaflets to support welcoming families in challenging circumstances. £2 each from the project office or free [online](#).

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Please feel free to reproduce anything in this bulletin and to forward it to anyone you think would be interested.

Everybody's Welcome Road-Show: Report on the Pilot

Veronica Murphy, formerly Training and Development Officer in the Project Office recently completed her report on a pilot project to develop an Everybody's Welcome Road-Show using a variety of formats. In her summary and recommendations Veronica makes the following points: *"The Everybody's Welcome Road-Show Pilot has ... demonstrated that a well designed workshop experience can significantly affect participants, increase awareness of resources, and in some cases, lead to the transformation of existing practise. It has also confirmed a belief that a consideration of the friendliness and family sensitive nature of our parish communities is a most necessary stage in understanding the complex interaction of home, family and parish that lies at the heart of the faith development process."* However, Veronica goes on to say that: *"the pilot has demonstrated that there remain many people in parishes, deaneries, pastoral areas and dioceses who have not yet engaged with the Bishops' Conference initiative Celebrating Family: Blessed, Broken, Living Love. It is therefore recommended that the Project Office publicise the basic workshop format, making available the materials and resources required through the existing Everybody's Welcome web-site and continue to promote the value of such work through the Marriage and Family Life e-bulletin."* [The full report is now available online](#) and the full collection of materials and resources will be available shortly.

Cardinal Ennio Antonelli

On Saturday 7 June, it was announced that Pope Benedict has appointed Cardinal Ennio Antonelli, Archbishop of Florence as president of the Pontifical Council for the Family. [Read more about His Eminence here](#).

Sixth World Meeting of Families: Mexico City 2009



VI ENCUESTRO
MUNDIAL DE
LAS FAMILIAS
MÉXICO 2009

The website for the next World Meeting of Families from 16th -18th January in Mexico City has just been translated into [English](#). The theme of the Meeting and the Theological-Pastoral Congress that precedes it (January 13th-16th) is: The family, teacher of human and Christian values. Those registering for the Congress before October 15th this year will enjoy a 20% discount. Previous experience suggests that additional, separate registration is required for the Meeting itself and other festive events.

Association of Interchurch Families: 40th Anniversary

Interchurch Families are celebrating 40 years of living the search for Christian Unity at their annual conference in Swanwick this summer, from Saturday, 23rd August - Monday 25th August. Guest speaker is Professor Thomas Knieps-Port Le Roi, who is coordinating theological work on the subject 'Interchurch Families as Domestic Church'. General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, Bob Fyffe, has also agreed to attend. For more information email: info@interchurchfamilies.org.uk

Do you know about the [National Occupational Standards for Work With Parents](#) ? [Follow the link to find out more....](#)