



Committee for Marriage and Family Life
The Role of the Diocesan Coordinator of Family Life Ministry
(extract from the Committee's Handbook for Diocesan Coordinators 1999)

The exact role of the Diocesan Coordinator of Family Life Ministry varies from diocese to diocese, as do working conditions, salary scale, and structures of line management and accountability. Nevertheless the role remains guided by the resolution passed by the Bishops' Conference in 1994:

1. Caring for, supporting and promoting all areas of family life; offering pastoral support to all - clergy and laity - involved in the work of affirming marriage, family life and the parish family.
2. Providing information and resources in family matters for all parishioners and clergy
3. Organizing training opportunities and coordinating lay involvement
4. Acting as a link with existing diocesan agencies to support families with a particular need
5. Strengthening ecumenical links enabling cooperation with other Christian Churches at appropriate diocesan and parish level and where possible offering joint programmes.

In 1999 the Committee for Marriage and Family Life viewed the role as also including:

1. Revealing the Church's understanding and teaching on marriage.
2. Listening to the needs of the diocese
3. Enabling parishes to build 'community' and giving practical help when requested
4. Helping couples preparing for marriage and at each stage of their life together.
5. Being sensitive to the needs of families which are hurting
6. Offering a variety of accessible programmes, holding days of celebration and 'contact' support days.
7. Participating in interdiocesan and national initiatives
8. Collaborating with all diocesan agencies and commissions
9. Contact and collaboration with marriage and family life workers in other dioceses.
10. Enabling dialogue with other faith communities and organisations in the area of marriage and family life.