



FAMILY LIFE

- We support and defend the institution of marriage as the basic foundation of society.
- We advocate for tax, workplace, divorce and welfare policies that enhance family unity.
- We support the fundamental rights of parents, and advocate for children's well-being.

STRONG FAMILIES SUPPORT OUR SOCIETY

“Knowing that marriage and the family constitute one of the most precious of human values, the Church wishes to speak and offer her help to those who are already aware of the value of marriage and the family and ...to those who are uncertain and anxious and searching for the truth...”

— John Paul II,
Familiaris
Consortio, no. 1
(1981)

Marriage, history shows us, is intrinsic to stable, flourishing and hospitable societies. Although cultural differences have occurred, what has never changed is that marriage is the ideal relationship between a man and a woman for the purpose of procreation and the continuation of the human race.

Family friendly policies include tax considerations for families raising children, flexible work hours—when possible—and family leave for caretaking of family members.

When families fall into the state's social safety net, it is imperative that their dignity and unity be preserved while all efforts are made to help them recover their financial independence. And when the misfortune of divorce hits a family, public policy must ensure that the children are the first priority.

Pope John Paul II reminds us in his encyclical, *Familiaris Consortio*, that parents are the first and foremost educators of their children—and that their home is the first school of those social virtues which every society needs.

References: The special marriage section at <http://www.cacatholic.org/index.php/teaching/marriage.html> and the U.S.Bishops' marriage website at: <http://foryourmarriage.org/>

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