

First, we are so proud of all our pastors and parishes for they are doing to accompany their people. Several parishes are experiencing an influx of viewers for their livestreaming Masses and other practices who have not or would not otherwise attend their Masses in person. We want to intentionally invite these people to join our community physically after the lifting of the “stay at home” orders. This can be done by inviting them through the livestreamed events to submit their emails or contact information to the parish and/or to join the parish’s email/text list hosted by Flocknote or similar platforms. The information could be posted at the end of the livestreamed event.

Second, over the last few weeks of the Coronavirus pandemic, several pastoral situations have arisen that require current and ongoing accompaniment. The first two are economic: the unemployed and those struggling small business owners. The third situation is that of couples who are experiencing stress in their relationship due to the current situation. Here are some best practices and resources to consider for the three pastoral situations. Pastors and parishes could promote these resources in their communication to their parishioners.

- I. Accompanying unemployed parishioners:
 - A. **Nos Lumine** is the Business Leadership Network for Catholics, founded by Jim Gernetzke, a member of St. Matthew the Apostle parish in Gahanna. Its members are focused on developing an *integrated life* where Christ is at the center of their family and work lives. As part of their parish outreach during this challenging time – Nos Lumine is providing FREE access to a special Job Search training program to members of our diocesan community who are dealing with unemployment or the threat of unemployment. The program was developed by Jim, a professional coach and 30-year veteran of the executive search world. It focuses on developing a targeted job search which leverages one’s personal and professional networks, rather than relying on the dark hole of the internet. For more information: contact Jim Gernetzke at jimgernetzke@noslumine.com or 614-352-1191
- II. Accompanying small business owners in the parish:
 - A. **Nos Lumine** is the Business Leadership Network for Catholics, founded by Jim Gernetzke, a member of St. Matthew the Apostle parish in Gahanna. Its members are focused on developing an *integrated life* where Christ is at the center of their family and work lives. As part of their parish outreach during this challenging time – Nos Lumine is introducing a Catholic Business Directory. Inclusion is FREE for businesses whose ownership or leadership includes a member of our Catholic diocesan community. For more information: contact Jim Gernetzke at jimgernetzke@noslumine.com or 614-352-1191
- III. Accompanying couples in stressed or strained relationships with each other:
 - A. **Online/Parish Programs**
 1. **Be Light Date Night Series**: Date Night Programming for five nights (beginning on 4/26). This can/should be shared with all couples at their parish (including those struggling in their marriages). Couples register on their own yet the point is to set up a group to connect with (virtually) after each session. A couple can invite a few friends and set this up or a

parish can offer this for their parishioners. We really encourage this unique event and the MFLO can assist if a parish would like to pursue this!

2. [Communio: COVID Crisis Toolbox for Relationships](#): Communio exists to serve churches in strengthening marriages and relationships both in their membership and helping them reach out to bless couples across their city. They offer consultation and expertise on how to maximize the number of couples you can reach at this time and provides resources you can send to them including virtual date nights, etc.

B. Coaching and Counseling Programs

1. [SmartLoving - BreakThrough](#): An online program for couples who are in marriages under stress or are feeling disconnected. A solid, Catholic option for a couple to do on their own and at their own pace. (Note: This is the same organization that we have recommended engaged couples use for their Pre-Cana since we have had to cancel some of ours.)
2. [Alexander House](#): Offers couples a connection with "Marriage Disciples" who coach them through various topics to improve their relationship. For couples that are both "healthy" in that they may not need traditional marriage counseling (no addictions, etc.), yet need help and support regarding their relationship.
3. [Pastoral Solutions Institute: Tele-Counseling Services](#): Organization dedicated to providing resources religiously-committed Catholics need to live more faithful and abundant marriage, family, and personal lives.

C. A Few Articles that May Help

1. [5 Small Ways You Can Support Each Other Every Day](#)
2. [10 Ways to Save A Struggling Marriage](#)

D. Podcasts

1. Abiding Together: [Marriage & Restoration with Dr. Bob Schuchts](#)
2. Made for Love: [Love in the Time of COVID](#)