

Marriage

Guidelines

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Barbara MacDonald, director of the archdiocesan Center for Family Ministries and task force member, called the signing a "historic event."

But she reminded the group, "Our challenge today and for the future is converting these guidelines into a living document."

In presenting the guidelines, Father Jude Weisenbeck, director of the archdiocesan Office of Ecumenism, said, "I sincerely believe that the strength of marriage is the best gauge that we have of the strength of the church and the strength of the nation."

*In every church,
we've got couples
whose marriages
have been strong
and have endured
for two, three, four
or five decades.*

*They have learned
something about
how to love one
another, how to
forgive one another,
how to argue. We
are not passing that
on to our children.*

Michael McManus

McManus noted that Louisville is the largest metropolitan area in the country to have adopted such a policy. "Too many of our churches have been blessing machines and wedding factories," the author said. "You will be a beacon on a hill to other places."

The document also lists the names of various support groups and programs that can help couples achieve their goals.

Fidelity

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would hope that it would be zero percent," Leckey said. "We hope that the ministry of the church would make that be so."

Wagner echoed Leckey's stress on marital fidelity being important for "children and society at large — and the church. I think it's consistent with what the church has preached."

"The family is a sacrament of the church. The family is the way in which the church is being lived out."

Reading the survey results "will free people to live out their own values," Wagner said, since they will know that their view on fidelity "is more the norm than the abnorm."

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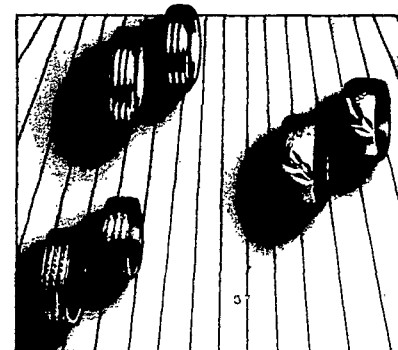
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