



DIocese OF LINCOLN

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November 7, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the Lord. I am writing in regard to an apostolate within the Diocese of Lincoln called the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family (MHSF). This apostolate began from the prayerful initiative of the laity and is anchored in the doctrine of the Catholic Church, especially as it concerns faithfully living out the Sacrament of Marriage.

The primary focus of MHSF is to assist couples, under the guidance of a priest spiritual director, as they grow in their experience of the profound and personal love of the Trinity for them. This happens through monthly meetings, where groups of up to 12 couples gather to enjoy a meal, pray with and for each other, and receive spiritual formation focused especially on an openness to the love and work of the Holy Spirit.

Each group of 12 couples works to develop “normals” or fundamental principles that are faithful to the Church, but unique to that small group. In a world that often says that it is normal to live contrary to the Gospel, the MHSF defines what being a faithful Catholic couple looks like based on the teachings of Christ and His Church. Each month, the couples reflect honestly on how each individual and couple feels they did in living the established MHSF “normals”. We recognize that each of us is weak, limited, and sinful, and that God loves us purely and unconditionally. This reflection is meant to provide positive, supportive, loving accountability and a source of strength to find a greater happiness in living in relationship with God in the Sacrament of Marriage and in our culture. In addition, each month's meeting concludes with Eucharistic Adoration, a chance to receive the Sacrament of Confession, and a chance to be prayed for by the other couples in the group for any specific intentions.

MHSF seeks to embrace the invitation Pope Benedict XVI spoke in his words on Pentecost Sunday, 2008. “Today I would like to extend this invitation to everyone: Let us rediscover, dear brothers and sisters, the beauty of being baptized in the Holy Spirit; let us be aware again of our baptism and our confirmation, sources of grace that are always present. Let us ask the Virgin Mary to obtain a renewed Pentecost for the Church again today, a Pentecost that will spread in everyone the joy of living and witnessing to the Gospel.”

Please be assured that this important apostolate has my blessing. With my prayerful good wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Rev. James D. Conley
Bishop of Lincoln