

Working Manual

for

THE MISSIONARIES

OF THE

HOLY SPIRIT

IN THE FAMILY

Welcome from the Founders

The Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family has an identity built up around the practical application of the New Evangelization in the Domestic Church and the culture of marriage & family. We believe it is our mission to utilize the gifts & charisms of the Holy Spirit to engage the culture through the discovery of Truth, Goodness, & Beauty offered to us through Jesus Christ by his gift of the Catholic Church. Ultimately, this is bound up in discovering the “concrete possibilities of man” who is “redeemed by Christ” and lives a life fully known, and fully loved by Father, Son & Holy Spirit (see *Veritatis Splendor* 103).

It is our mission to “sanctify ordinary life”, or rather to let the Lord redeem what was rightfully given as pure gift in the “beginning”. To make normal & ordinary that of which we are heirs to, namely, perfect communion with the living God.

MHSF was never made to be a “program” for young married couples, but rather a formation of accompaniment, drawn out over time. The apostolate is fruitful only by the constant giving of the Holy Spirit, and the essential reception of His gifts by each of you. He will be the guide of the apostolate, and our role is to listen to Him, be with Him, and share the joy and grace that He brings to marriage & family, and our culture.

The call to Matrimony is exceptional, sacramental, life-giving, and truly a sacrament of service. The “call within a call” to discern into being a Missionary of the Holy Spirit in the Family is a very specific way to live out married life in an intentional, devoted manner that will bear witness to the Holy Spirit and his desire to make every living family- every domestic church- a “mini Pentecost”. Those of you here have responded not out of mere curiosity, piqued interest, or for the comfort of good fellowship. Realize that you are responding in love to the God who made you, and answering His call to become His Missionary, for the sake of the family.

We do not know everything that He desires out of this mission, but we do trust that the ways of living the mission of MHSF. The mission is built on the rock of the Church as a way to help form one’s marriage & family for an entire lifetime. Your call to MHSF will bear great fruit as you let Him work! You have a story to tell. Your vocation, call to the apostolate, and influence on your domestic church and the Church, herself, have profound implications. Let the Holy Spirit be thy guide!

Come, Holy Spirit!

Chance & Lora Unger, *Founders*

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

1. Preamble
2. Purpose of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family
3. Membership of the Apostolate
 - a. Qualifications
 - b. Formation
 - c. Consecration
4. Those Discerning the Apostolate
 - a. Candidacy
 - b. Formal Discernment
5. MHSF Chapters
 - a. Governance
 - b. Practicalities
6. Obligations of Chapter Members
 - a. Obligations of Candidates
7. Positions within the Apostolate
8. Separation of Members from the Apostolate
9. Suppression or Extinction of the Apostolate
10. Appendix
 - a. Patron(s) of MHSF
 - b. Important Documents for the MHSF Member
 - c. Basic Formation Guideline
 - d. MHSF Prayer of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary
 - e. Discernment Resources
 - f. Monthly Gathering Template
 - g. Online Information
 - h. Entrustment

1. Preamble

- a. “The family is a kind of school of deeper humanity. But if it is to achieve the full flowering of its life and mission, it needs the kindly communion of minds and the joint deliberation of spouses, as well as the painstaking cooperation of parents in the education of their children. The active presence of the father is highly beneficial to their formation. The children, especially the younger among them, need the care of their mother at home. This domestic role of hers must be safely preserved, though the legitimate social progress of women should not be underrated on that account.” (*Gaudium et Spes* 52)
- b. The Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family is a lay apostolate founded in October 2016 in the Diocese of Lincoln, NE. Formed with the intention of formulating a more wholesome understanding of the workings of the Holy Spirit, specifically within the domestic church
- c. Family, Become What You Are
 - i. To take from St. John Paul II, (*Familiaris Consortio*, 9) MHSF is aimed at meeting the need in the Church for the following:

“To the injustice originating from sin-which has profoundly penetrated the structures of today’s world-and often **hindering the family’s full realization of itself** and of its fundamental rights, we must all set ourselves in opposition through a conversion of mind and heart, following Christ Crucified by denying our own selfishness: such a conversion cannot fail to have a beneficial and renewing influence even on the structures of society.

What is needed is a continuous, permanent conversion which, while requiring an interior detachment from every evil and an adherence to good in its fullness, is **brought about concretely in steps which lead us ever forward**. Thus a dynamic process develops, one which advances gradually with the progressive integration of the gifts of God and the demands of His definitive and absolute love in the entire personal and social life of man. **Therefore an educational growth process is necessary, in order that individual believers, families and peoples, even civilization itself, by beginning from what they have already received of the mystery of Christ, may patiently be led forward, arriving at a richer understanding and a fuller integration of this mystery in their lives.**”

- d. Meaning of the Domestic Church
 - i. Saint John Paul II called the family the “basic cell of society”. We see it as our “call within a call” to foster a culture of life within the domestic church, specifically through the combination of the sacramental and charismatic relationship in the Church.
 - ii. Historically of late, our popes have been calling for a “New Pentecost” in this very time of the church. We see it as our mission in the laity- duly in the family- to call upon the Holy Spirit to enkindle Himself as the light and fire of a building up of marriage and family in the Church.
- e. Charisms & the Holy Spirit

- i. It's is "man's vocation" to live a life in the Holy Spirit (CCC 1699). Through the Holy Scriptures, the Church's Tradition, Magisterium, the Sacramental Liturgy, prayer, charisms & signs of apostolic and missionary life, and the witness of the saints we are able to know God, the Holy Spirit (CCC 688)
- ii. Calling upon the Holy Spirit, Himself, is a priority of fruitfulness in the New Evangelization. As we are all called and given the duty to proclaim the kerygma of the faith, promoting a genuine encounter with Jesus is an essential way to build the bridge of trust between friends, family members, and those we encounter on a day to day basis.
- iii. God has given all of the baptized supernatural gifts, or *charisms* in order to build up the Church. These are in addition to His seven gifts bestowed at baptism, and ought to be utilized "for the other"- that is, at the service of perfect charity towards another person.

2. Purpose of the Apostolate

- a. Mission Statement:
 - i. Through Him, with Him, and in Him- we are the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family. It is our mission as husbands & wives to ignite the bond that knits families together, that is- the Holy Spirit, in order to sanctify the domestic church. We exist in order to take action on living out our marital covenant to be true, to love and to honor our spouse and family in order to build up the culture of life and engage the New Evangelization within the ordinary and extraordinary parts of life in the family.
- b. In summary, the purpose of MHSF is to find Jesus in every possible way, and to allow him to redeem who we are in every possible way, beginning at home. A special docility to the Holy Spirit becomes quintessential for this to occur, and that also involves a proper understanding of who the Holy Spirit is and how He seeks to be involved in the lives of husbands & wives, sons & daughters.
- c. Our purpose is fulfilled in living out the 7 Pillars of the apostolate, which are as follows:
 - i. Vulnerability
 - 1. In the beginning there was original Solitude, Unity in perfect Innocence. We seek to know and be known in vulnerability to the Holy Spirit's actions in order to grow in depth of relationship with one's spouse, children, and in developing true friendship.
 - 2. Reverence, Intercession, & Encouragement are special ingredients for accomplishing this "environment" of vulnerability, which brings forth so many of the other Pillars of MHSF, as well as a great number of virtues in the domestic church.
 - ii. Family Prayer
 - 1. The practical application of our apostolate is teaching and living prayer in our families. If the family is the 'basic cell of society' then prayer is the lifeline- the literal life that brings animation to our vocation. In a very special way, this builds upon being receptive and vulnerable to one's spouse,

children, and the Holy Spirit himself. Anything can be turned into prayer. Anything can be sanctified.

iii. Eucharistic

1. Founded in solidarity with Our Lord in the Eucharist, the "source and summit" of our faith, we emphasize communion. The Eucharist is the unifying principle allowing us to utilize the grace involved with "iron sharpening iron" and the realization that communion with others requires intentionality.
2. Pope St. John Paul II said "let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him."
 - a. *"Jesus waits for us in this sacrament of love. Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in adoration and in contemplation that is full of faith and ready to make reparation for the great faults and crimes of the world by our adoration never cease." (Apostolic Letter on the Eucharist; 24 February 1980)*

iv. Sanctifying the Ordinary

1. Because of His love- entirely full, beautiful, wholesome- we can say with confidence that "if anything matters, everything matters." And for that reason, everything can, and ought, to be redeemed.
2. *"Jesus Christ came to restore creation to the purity of its origin."* (CCC 2336)
3. As the "charism" of MHSF, this Pillar teaches us to know, love, and serve God in every possible way, as we were meant from the beginning. Sanctifying marriage by restoring marriage to the purity of its origin, by creating a "new normal" in marriage & family is the goal of our apostolate, and at the heart of MHSF. This can only be done by the Lord himself in the Holy Spirit.

v. Gift of Self

1. "Man... cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself." (Gaudium et Spes 24:3) We strive to imitate Jesus Christ in his perfect gift of self. As we do this we desire to make up what is lacking in His suffering- that is, our joyful participation in fully giving of ourselves in charity.

vi. Discovery

1. The family is the "school of love", and husband and wife are the original and principal teachers to one another and children. As love grows, knowledge grows- this is the pillar of adventure & of desire. "Desire" comes from the Latin '*desiderare*': to long for, wish for, hope for, or expect. This may have come from the original phrase '*de sidere*': "from the stars"
2. Striving for what is True, Good, and Beautiful in the adventure of a living relationship with the Holy Spirit is what animates this pillar of discovery, and lets us grow in our capacity to receive Him who is Love itself. *"Only in the mystery of Christ's Redemption do we discover the "concrete" possibilities of man."* (St. John Paul II)

vii. Mercy

1. "Mercy is love's second name." (Saint John Paul II) Learning to receive Christ's unconditional love even when we perceive we don't deserve it; and learning to give unconditional love to our spouse, children, and culture even when we perceive they don't deserve it.
 2. Mercy and Vulnerability tend to be the "bookends" of many of the couples that discern into living the mission of MHSF.
- d. Saint John Paul II called the domestic church (the family) culture's "basic cell of society". The purpose of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family (MHSF) is to assist in sanctifying the Church, the culture, and the world from the inside out- via the family.

3. Membership in the Apostolate

- a. Qualifications:
 - i. Members must be currently practicing Catholics, married couples, in good standing within their respective parish & Diocese.
 - ii. Members will have made a proper discernment prior to entrance and approval of entry in the apostolate. The details of this can be found in *Discernment* section of this Manual.
- b. Formation of Members
 - i. Internal Formation
 1. Consists of a 2 year commitment, growing in holy formation in the intellectual, spiritual, human, and pastoral realms of the person and the couple.
 - a. See *Formation Timeline* in the appendix.
 - b. This commitment is truly as such, and the attendance of the couples is essential to the best possible outcomes for each couple. It is true that couples receive what they "put in" by entrustment to the formation, the other couples in a chapter, and the apostolate's mission.
 2. Each chapter will begin to develop "Normals", which are an expression of each particular and organic purpose in the domestic and local church.
 - a. The "Normals" of each chapter consist of a list (no set number, but perhaps 10-15) of "ways of living as a Catholic" that ought to be **normal** in your lives, particular in regards to living out the mission of the apostolate.
 - b. Visit *Resources for the Member* for an example.
 3. Living out of the 7 Pillars (Vulnerability, Family Prayer, Gift of Self, Sanctifying the Ordinary, Eucharistic, Discovery, Mercy)
 4. Annual retreat(s)
 - a. For all members, the annual MHSF retreat is aimed at an intense, personal, and intentional encounter with the Trinity to help reignite, reestablish, and grow the formation of husbands & wives in the apostolate.

5. Engaging in the validity of the Lay Office through evangelization outreach, among other formal and informal developments within the Church.
 6. Designation of following the Liturgical calendar and formulating one's family more wholly to the liturgical year.
 7. Special Intentions and the laying of hands over others to allow the Holy Spirit to heal.
 8. Shared family devotions
 9. MHSF daily prayer habits, made to be a unifier between chapters and other couples.
 - a. Some examples include: creating MHSF prayer cards, praying the Holy Spirit Novena, praying the *Veni Creator Spiritus*.
- ii. Consecrated Missionaries
 1. Defined as a lifelong commitment to the mission and vision of MHSF, including a shared way of living our married life in community with other consecrated missionaries. This takes the form (practically) in continued formation, small groups, retreats, gatherings, and service for the apostolate. Furthermore, it includes a shared "rule of life" which includes disciplines, communal support, and depth of discovery in the joy of the Sacrament.
 - iii. External Formation
 1. Influencing the institution of Marriage through public evangelization
 - a. Helping others fully realize the call of the family, especially young couples dating, engaged, and/or discerning the vocation to marriage.
 2. MHSF 'mentorship' to those discerning the apostolate as well as those furthering an understanding of the domestic church in preparing for marriage.
- c. Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit
 - i. Members
 1. Members within the apostolate of MHSF will commit to an initial and annual renewal of a Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary, specifically in regards to their state in life. (See Resources)
 - ii. Those Discerning
 1. Those couples in the process of continual discernment of MHSF will be committed to the Prayer of Consecration, as listed in the Resources.

4. Those Discerning the Apostolate

- a. Candidacy
 - i. Those persons having interest- particular to a "call within a call" to MHSF will undergo active discernment in order to adequately ensure a true calling from the Holy Spirit.
- b. Initial Discernment
 - i. Purpose of discernment:

1. The purpose of discernment is to assist with a depth of understanding of how the Holy Spirit is calling a couple towards deepening a docility towards His gifts, charisms, and mission. To assist those in the discernment process for the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family, the following has been gathered to be a formal guide of discernment for husbands and wives, particular to understand more fully the promptings of the Third Person of the Trinity and His actions within the domestic church.
- ii. The discernment process is essential prior to being a member of MHSF. For those interested in involvement in an MHSF chapter, intentional discernment with the help of others must occur. Particularly, those candidates in a period of active discernment will- at a minimal- participate in the following:
 1. Meet the general qualifications for membership in the apostolate
 2. Discernment period ample to increase docility to the Holy Spirit
 3. Novena to the Holy Spirit
 4. Meet with Lead Couple of appropriate MHSF Chapter and/or member of the apostolate Discernment Committee (depending on time frame)
 5. Commit to the MHSF Prayer of Consecration to Jesus through Mary, the Spouse of the Holy Spirit
 6. Be prepared to be a witness of the mission and purpose of the apostolate.
 7. Be directed to MHSF Founders.
- iii. Organic discernment
 1. The importance of fluidity and freedom to grow independently as a couple is what makes each family unique. Organic discernment will take place in respect to the married couple's state in life, in accordance as much as they are able to do so.
- iv. Discernment Resources
 1. See "Those Discerning the Apostolate" document in the Appendix.

5. MHSF Chapters

- a. Governance of Chapters
 - i. Chaplain
 - ii. Lead Couple(s)
 - iii. Chapter members
- b. Practicals of Chapters
 - i. The specifics of communal gatherings are essential. While many details may vary between chapters, routine and organically organized gatherings should exist.
 1. Monthly gatherings will include:
 - a. Meal & Intentional Community
 - b. Spiritual formation
 - c. Adoration & Confessions
 2. The monthly gathering of each chapter is truly a sacred time for the deeper formation of each couple, particular in growing in depth formation. Ensuring this time is intimate, and fruitful is a special component of the identity of MHSF.

- ii. Requirements of existence
 - 1. Each chapter is unequivocally important to the mission of building up the Church. That being said, a proper structure to facilitate the fruits of the apostolate must exist. Each MHSF chapter is required to have the following:
 - a. Chapter Priest/Spiritual Director
 - b. Group size no less than 5 and no more than 12 couples
 - c. Tangible location of gathering- preferably a local parish, for access to Eucharistic Adoration & the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

6. Obligations of the Chapter and Apostolate

- a. Each Chapter:
 - i. Will undergo 24 month formation
 - ii. Will define Normals for their chapter
 - iii. Will have access or have assigned a priest as a spiritual director
 - iv. Will be assigned a lead couple

7. Positions of the Apostolate

- a. An understanding of proper relationship between members is an extraordinary way to become a more fruitful apostolate. Each member has a specific talent, role, and gifts to share with the rest.
- b. MHSF Officers (Moderators, etc.)
- c. Head Chaplain & MHSF Founders
 - i. Chapter Directors
 - ii. Secretary
 - iii. Discernment Chair
 - iv. Financial Officers
 - v. Liturgical Living Chair
 - vi. Hospitality/ Events Coordinators
 - vii. Prayer Team
 - viii. Evangelization Chair
 - ix. Media/Public Relations
- d. Chaplain/Spiritual Director
 - i. Defining the role for new priests
 - 1. Define, train, and form priests of the mission of MHSF
- e. Role of a Lead Couple
 - i. Couple from within MHSF
 - ii. Create Unity & Consistency between Chapters
 - iii. Attend some group meetings of new chapter
 - iv. Holds new group accountable to statutes of MHSF
 - v. Helps with education, meeting structure, and function of group
 - 1. A Chapter director could lead multiple groups, or one couple per each
- f. Role of Discernment Team
 - i. Responsible for the careful discernment and education of new members to our

- mission statement, ideals, purpose and expectations.
- ii. Heavy emphasis on motivation for involvement
- iii. Will assist discerning couples with praying novena to the Holy Spirit during period of active discernment
- iv. Responsible for contacting MHSF founders or chapter lead couple on behalf of discerning couple
- g. Prayer Team
 - i. Those members open to praying for, over, and with individuals within and outside the apostolate in order to build up the normalcy of healing and praying as Jesus told us.
- h. Evangelization Committee
 - i. Passionate about promoting the mission of the apostolate to those who have not heard.
 - ii. Discovering new methods of sharing the kerygma in the specific way of MHSF
- i. Liturgical Living Committee
 - i. Oversees practical application of living liturgically within the family life
- j. Financial Officers
 - i. Responsible for overseeing financial operations within apostolate
- k. Secretary/ Administrators
 - i. Organization of MHSF documents and resources, etc.
- l. Media/Public Relations
 - i. Responsible for social media use and public understanding of the apostolates mission, practical application, and appropriate updates.
- m. Hospitality
 - i. Assists with preparing, assisting, and planning events for MHSF.

8. Separation of Members from the Apostolate

- a. Withdrawal
 - i. Those couples discerning the apostolate may withdrawal from potential entrance at any time.
 - ii. Any members (although couples must act together), who have made a definitive commitment to the apostolate may request to withdrawal from the apostolate for personal reasons which may vary greatly, but may include: error of judgement, discerning of the inability to live out the Pillars, Normals, and requirements of the apostolate, grave change in state of life, among many others. We wish this to be discussed and approved with the members' chapter Lead Couple, Chaplain, and MHSF Founders.
 - iii. Members who have withdrawn from MHSF may, upon approval and adequate discernment, be readmitted to the adequate chapter of the apostolate through approval and recognition of Lead Couple, Chaplain, and Founders.
- b. Dismissal
 - i. A member may be dismissed from the apostolate:

1. If he/she has definitively renounced the Catholic faith, been formally excommunicated, or contracted willful divorce.
2. For other grave reasons that may include reasons for severe scandal of the apostolate, repeated and willful disobedience to the apostolate's mission, among other actions or causes of similar gravity.
3. Dismissal of the definitively committed member(s) must be confirmed by appropriate Lead Couple, Chaplain, and Founders.

9. Suppression/Extinction of the Apostolate

- a. If there were to be a reason to suppress the existence of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family (MHSF), it will be granted only with the approval of all members in the apostolate, via the approval of the local bishop.
- b. The apostolate will cease to exist if it is inactive for one hundred years.
- c. If any temporal goods remain, they are to be assigned to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Newman Center in order to promote a building up of marriage, family, and the culture of life.

Appendix

Patron(s) of MHSF

Important Documents for the MHSF Member

Basic Formation Guideline

MHSF Prayer of Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary

Discernment Resources

Monthly Gathering Template

Online Information

Entrustment

Co-Patrons

“The future of humanity passes by way of the family.”

-St. John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*

The first patron of the apostolate, the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family is **Pope Saint John Paul II**. He is well known to be the patron of families, and has specifically interceded on behalf of the families within the apostolate of MHSF. As has been said throughout this Working Manual, we rely greatly on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and we also rely greatly on the prayers of the communion of saints- in particular those who know the influence of the family so well.

The family is the building block of society. As Pope St. John Paul II notes above, “The future of humanity passes by way of the family.” As families, we have a special responsibility and gift to influence all of humanity for the greater good of society. Jesus himself calls us to “proclaim the kingdom of God and heal the sick” (Luke 9:2), and the Holy Spirit gives us all that we need to fulfill this mission in the family and through the reach of each family. Through his prayer, intercession, and gifts of writings, actions, and speeches- Pope St. John Paul II gives us so much as an apostolate to draw from, and guidance in his love for marriage and family.

Co-patron to the apostolate is beloved **Saint Francis of Assisi**. Known well for his radical conversion and transformation to live a life in love “Lady Poverty”, Saint Francis has influenced generations past, present and future with his desire to give absolutely everything to Jesus. His charismatic character and influential personality gave way for men and women alike to set aside everything “unimportant” in order to devote wholly, to the Creator and King of the Universe, Jesus Christ. Saint Francis is a pillar of example for our apostolate in our mission to “rebuild the domestic church” from the inside out, beginning with interior transformation, and allowing that to spread to the entire Church like fire.

Chapter Patrons

Founding Chapter: Saint Francis of Assisi

Second Chapter: St. Joseph

Important Documents for the MHSF Member

Familiaris Consortio: On the Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World, St. John Paul II

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

Man & Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body, St. John Paul II

Ad Gentes: Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church, Second Vatican Council

Gaudium et Spes: Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, Second Vatican Council

Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Doctrinal Commission of ICCRS (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services)

The Discernment of Spirits: An Ignatian Guide for Everyday Living, Fr. Timothy Gallagher O.M.V.

Charisms: What are they? Who are they for? What does the Church teach?, Ralph Martin

Making Missionary Disciples, Curtis A. Martin

In the School of the Holy Spirit, Fr. Jacques Philippe

Formation Timeline

Formation for the chapter will consist of approximately 24 months following the below overview:

- 1. Introduction to the Missionaries of The Holy Spirit in the Family**
- 2. Joys & Hopes; Grievs & Anxieties**
- 3. The Plan of God for Marriage & Family**
- 4. Family, Become Who You Are**
- 5. Forming a Community of Persons**
- 6. Serving Life Part 1**
- 7. Serving Life Part 2**
- 8. Participating in the Development of Society**
- 9. Sharing in the Life and Mission of the Church Part 1**
- 10. Sharing in the Life and Mission of the Church Part 2**
- 11. Pastoral Care of the Family**
- 12. The Future of Humanity Passes by Way of the Family**

Annual Consecration of MHSF Chapter to Jesus through Mary

- 13. “Man’s Vocation: Life in the Spirit”**
- 14. Charisms & Signs of Apostolic Missionary Life (Part 1)**
- 15. Charisms & Signs (Part 2)**
- 16. Charisms & Signs (Part 3)**
- 17. Charisms & Signs (Part 4)**
- 18. Prayer**
- 19. The “Dynamus” of the Spirit & Vulnerability to the Third Person of the Trinity**
- 20. Communal Prayer**
- 21. Witness of the Saints**
- 22. MHSF Pillars & The “Mystagogy of Marriage”**
- 23. Reflections on the Nuptial Prayer & Spousal Meaning of the Body**
- 24. Living a Life in the Spirit; “Protecting the Garden”**

MHSF Total Consecration to Jesus Through Mary

O Eternal and incarnate Wisdom! O sweetest and most adorable Jesus! True God and true man, only Son of the Eternal Father, and of Mary, always virgin! We adore Thee profoundly in the bosom and splendors of Thy Father during eternity; and we adore Thee also in the virginal bosom of Mary, Thy most worthy Mother, in the time of Thine incarnation. We give Thee thanks for that Thou hast annihilated Thyself, taking the form of a slave in order to rescue us from the cruel slavery of the devil. We praise and glorify Thee for that Thou hast been pleased to submit Thyself to Mary, Thy holy Mother, in all things, in order to make us Thy faithful slaves through her. But, alas! Ungrateful and faithless as we have been, we have not kept the promises which we made so solemnly to Thee in our Baptisms; we have not fulfilled our obligations; we do not deserve to be called Thy children, nor yet Thy slaves; and as there is nothing in us which does not merit Thine anger and Thy repulse, we dare not come by ourselves before Thy most holy and august Majesty. It is on this account that we have recourse to the intercession of Thy most holy Mother, whom Thou hast given us for a mediatrix with Thee. It is through her that we hope to obtain of Thee contrition, the pardon of our sins, and the acquisition and preservation of wisdom.

Hail, then, O immaculate Mary, living tabernacle of the Divinity, where the Eternal Wisdom willed to be hidden and to be adored by angels and by men! Hail, O Queen of Heaven and earth, to whose empire everything is subject which is under God. Hail, O sure refuge of sinners, whose mercy fails no one. Hear the desires which we have of the Divine Wisdom; and for that end receive the vows and offerings which in our lowliness we present to thee.

We, N's _____, faithless sinners, renew and ratify today in thy hands the vows of our Baptisms; we renounce forever Satan, his pomps and works; and we give ourselves entirely to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, to carry our cross after Him all the days of our lives, and to be more faithful to Him than we have ever been before. In the presence of all the heavenly court we choose thee this day for our Mother and Mistress. We deliver and consecrate to thee, as thy slaves, our bodies and souls, our goods, both interior and exterior, and even the value of all our good actions, past, present and future; leaving to thee the entire and full right of disposing of us, and all that belongs to us, without exception, according to thy good pleasure, for the greater glory of God in time and in eternity.

Receive, O benignant Virgin, this little offering of our slavery, in honor of, and in union with, that subjection which the Eternal Wisdom deigned to have to thy maternity; in homage to the power which both of you have over these poor sinners, and in thanksgiving for the privileges with which the Holy Trinity has favored thee. We declare that we wish henceforth, as thy true slaves, to seek thy honor and to obey thee in all things.

O admirable Mother, present us to thy dear Son as His eternal slaves, so that as He has redeemed us by thee, by thee He may receive us! O Mother of mercy, grant us the grace to obtain the true Wisdom of God; and for that end receive us among those whom thou lovest and teachest, whom thou leadest, nourishest and protectest as thy children and thy slaves.

O faithful Virgin, make us in all things so perfect disciples, imitators and slaves of the Incarnate Wisdom, Jesus Christ thy Son, that we may attain, by thine intercession and by thine example, to the fullness of His age on earth and of His glory in Heaven.

“Allow us also, Blessed Mother, to cast our apostolate, the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family at your feet, humbly asking your constant protection, guidance, and intercession in order to surrender completely to your Son, to be filled with the Life of the Holy Spirit, and to know intimately the Father’s love for us and to love Him with all our hearts, souls, and strength.”

Amen.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Discernment Resources

“Parents teach their children mainly through their own conduct. What a son or daughter looks for in a father or mother is not only a certain amount of knowledge or some more or less effective advice, but primarily something more important: a proof of the value and meaning of life, shown through the life of a specific person, and confirmed in the different situations and circumstances that occur over a period of time.

“If I were to give advice to parents, I would tell them, above all, let your children see that you are trying to live in accordance with your faith. Don't let yourselves be deceived: they see everything, from their earliest years, and they judge everything. Let them see that God is not only on your lips, but also in your deeds; that you are trying to be loyal and sincere, and that you love each other and you really love them too.

“This is how you will best contribute to making your children become true Christians, men and women of integrity, capable of facing all life's situations with an open spirit, of serving their fellow men and helping to solve the problems of mankind, of carrying the testimony of Christ to the society of which they will be a part.”

St. Josemaria Escriva (Christ is Passing By, no. 28)

Documents

Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Doctrinal Commission of ICCRS (International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services)

The Discernment of Spirits: An Ignatian Guide for Everyday Living by Fr. Timothy Gallagher O.M.V.

Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment, Preparatory Document of the XV Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (January 13, 2017)

Jesus Living in Mary: Handbook of the Spirituality of St. Louis de Montfort; Charisms, St. Louis de Montfort

Discernment Document for Those Discerning the Apostolate

The purpose of discernment is to assist with a depth of understanding of how the Holy Spirit is calling a couple towards deepening a docility towards His gifts, charisms, and mission. To assist those in the discernment process for the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family, the following has been gathered to be a formal guide of discernment for husbands and wives, particular to understand more fully the promptings of the Third Person of the Trinity and His actions within the domestic church.

The discernment process is essential prior to being a member of MHSF. For those interested in involvement in an MHSF chapter, intentional discernment with the help of others must occur. Particularly, those candidates in a period of active discernment will participate in the following:

1. An adequate discernment period ample to increase docility to the Holy Spirit
2. Understand the 7 Pillars of MHSF and their role in the family
 - a. Vulnerability
 - b. Family Prayer
 - c. Eucharistic
 - d. Sanctifying the Ordinary
 - e. Gift of Self
 - f. Discovery
 - g. Mercy
3. Complete a Novena to the Holy Spirit:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your Love.

V: Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created

R: And You shall renew the face of the earth

Holy Spirit, third Person of the Blessed Trinity, Spirit of truth, love and holiness, proceeding from the Father and the Son, and equal to Them in all things, I adore You and love You with all my heart.

Dearest Holy Spirit, confiding in your deep, personal love for me, I am making this novena for the following request, if it should be Your holy Will to grant it: (mention your request).

Teach me, Divine Spirit, to know and seek my last end; grant me the holy fear of God; grant me true contrition and patience. Do not let me fall into sin. Give me an increase of faith, hope, and charity, and bring forth in my soul all the virtues proper to my state of life.

Make me a faithful disciple of Jesus and an obedient child of the Church. Give me efficacious grace sufficient to keep the commandments and to receive the sacraments worthily. Give me the four Cardinal Virtues, Your Seven Gifts, Your Twelve Fruits. Raise me to perfection in the state of life to which You have called me and lead me through a happy death to everlasting life. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

4. Commit to the MHSF Prayer of Consecration to Jesus through Mary, the Spouse of the Holy Spirit
5. Be prepared to be a witness of the mission and purpose of the apostolate.
6. Meet with Lead Couple of appropriate MHSF Chapter and/or member of the apostolate Discernment Committee (depending on time frame)
7. Be directed to MHSF Founders.

Additionally, it is recommended that at the couple undergoes an organic discernment, particular to their state in life and the thoughts, feelings, and desires that lie within their heart for interest and commitment in the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family. Some helpful methods may include the following:

1. Commitment to a weekly holy hour with Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration.
2. Daily mass (as able).
3. Reading through select MHSF resources for discernment.
4. Fasting of sorts with the intention of clarity for discernment of the apostolate.
5. Discussing and inquiring with a spiritual director (if available).

Several resources exist to assist with discernment in general. In regards to discernment towards the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family, several of them can be found in the Working Manual of MHSF.

Be assured of our prayers for you as you continue to inquire and discern the apostolate!

-The Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family

Monthly Gathering Template

Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family (MHSF) Meeting Structure Template

Dinner	6:30-7:05pm
Updates	7:05-7:10pm
Large Group - Formation	
Small Group Discussion	7:10-8:25pm
How did things go last month?	
What are your goals this month?	
Intentions/Praying over others	
Eucharistic Adoration & Confession	8:30-9:30pm

Online Information

Much of the information of our apostolate can be found at our website:

www.MissionariesoftheHolySpiritintheFamily.org

This includes:

1. Description of the 7 Pillars of MHSF
2. Testimonies
3. Inspirations
 - a. Church Writings
 - b. Documents on the Holy Spirit and MHSF
 - c. Prayers
4. Special Resources
 - a. Access to the Working MHSF Manual, discovering information on MHSF Chapters
5. Updates on the apostolate that are newsworthy

Entrustment

Through the discernment, promptings, and docility to the Holy Spirit, I entrust myself evermore to my spouse and our family, large or small, through the formation, commitments and responsibilities that are a part of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the Family.

Through the blessing of the Lord, the intercession of the saints- especially Mary- I resolve to live to the best of my ability the vows with which I made upon entering the Sacrament of Matrimony. Through intentional commitment to this apostolate, my goal is to become a saint, and to make saints of my family.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

“Totus tuus ego sum, et omnia mea tua sunt.”

I belong entirely to you, and all that I have is yours.