

**Possible Parish Activities for Evangelization in and through the Family
Diocese of Salina Office of New Evangelization
February, 2015**

February 7-8, 2015 marks this year's observance of World Marriage Day. The office of New Evangelization offers some simple ideas for evangelization in and through the family, in particular related to World Marriage Day. (Note: if necessary for parish scheduling, a World Marriage Day activity could also easily be conducted on the weekend of February 14-15.)

- 1) Married couples could be recognized at weekend parish Masses.
 - Marriage vows could be renewed and/or an anniversary-type blessing could be offered to married couples who are present.
 - A token of recognition could be offered, such as a single-stemmed rose, to each married couple present.
 - Special recognition could be given to the longest and the most recently married couple. One option is presenting each such couple (who are present at each weekend Mass) with a gift certificate/card for dinner at a local restaurant.

- 2) Married couples could be asked to respond to the question: "What is it about my spouse that helps me to be a better Christian and/or disciple of Jesus?" Responses could be publicized through the parish bulletin, website, Facebook page, etc.

- 3) Not all marriages are happy all the time. The "Prayer to St. Rita for Troubled Marriages" could be distributed. The prayer text:

St. Rita, make us understand that a vocation is not only a matter of attraction. Enable us to see clearly that it is also a matter of finding in ordinary events, God's will for us and then accepting it even if it seems to be baffling and contrary to our wishes. Teach those called by the Lord to the married state to reflect deeply on the delicate choices that will influence their destiny. Let them not be deceived by their feelings; instead, let them look for the solid qualities that keep a home united in the joy of the Lord. Teach unhappy spouses the power of patience and mildness. Let them not give way to discouragement but, like you, let them endeavor to save both the happiness of their home and the soul of their spouse. St. Rita, we pray this prayer through you and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.