Together in Holiness
At a Glance

Program Details

Content Author: St. John Paul II Foundation

Program Category: Couple's Resource

Program Type: Facilitator-Led

Delivery Method: Small Group

In-Person/Online?: In-Person

Cost of Material for End User: $50 - $150 per Couple (varies by support of diocese/parish)

Cost of Training and/or Leader Material: $50 - $150 per Host Couple (varies by support of diocese/parish

Cost of Parish Sponsorship: $2,500 annually includes Foundation staff support, parish-specific marketing materials, discounted registration for all participating parishioners, and unlimited scholarships to couples in financial need.

Languages: English, Spanish

Group Sharing?: Yes

Catholic: Yes

Concepts Taught

Prayer & Devotional Practices:

- ✓ Vocal Prayer & Petition
- ✓ Meditative Prayer
- ✓ Liturgical Prayer
- ✓ Intercessory Prayer
- ✓ Adoration & Worship
- ✓ Prayers of Thanksgiving
- ✓ Contrition & Repentance
- ✓ Marian Devotions

Relationship-Oriented Concepts:

- ✓ Sacramentality of Marriage
- ✓ Prayer & Spirituality
- ✓ Theological Virtues
- ✓ Family Life & Parenting
- ✓ Natural Family Planning
- ✓ Moral Decision-Making
- ✓ Confession & Forgiveness
- ✓ Married Saints & Blesseds
- ✓ Theology of the Body
- ✓ Evangelization & Discipleship

Communio's Take:

The *Together in Holiness* Formation series is a catechetical and relationship enrichment small group resource designed to inspire married couples to grow closer to each other as they grow deeper in holiness. The curriculum is divided into seven series of seven sessions designed to launch annually. In each group meeting, couples are invited to uniquely encounter God as they discover His plan for marriage and family. Described as *Familaris Consortio* in action, the *Together in Holiness* Formation series uses John Paul II's teaching as the starting point for every year of the program. Each series follows a theme or catchphrase discussed by John Paul II in his teachings. The program seeks to unpack John Paul II's phrase "Family, become what you are!" The goal is to help couples recognize the sanctity of family life and learn how they can live out holiness daily. The seven series of content covers the following topics:

- Series One: Family, a Domestic Church
- Series Two: Family, a Community of Prayer
- Series Three: Family, a School of Virtue
- Series Four: Family a School of Love
- Series Five: Family, a Believing and Evangelizing Community
- Series Six: Family, a Seedbed of Vocations
- Series Seven: Family, an Image of the Trinity

To initiate the program, the church appoints a leader or "parish lead" who meets with an assigned St. John Paul II Foundation staff member to discuss goals for the year and best practices for recruiting Host Couples and participating couples. Often, a church will host a social event to identify Host Couples (preferably newlyweds or young families) that wish to lead a small group or "Circle." Host Couples are interviewed by the Foundation to ensure they have the charism of hospitality and that they align with Church teaching and the mission of the Foundation. Next, Host Couples are provided with training videos to discuss site navigation, organizing a Circle, and 2-3 catechetical sessions before opening their homes. Circles generally include a Host Couple and 3-5 other couples. The most effective place for Circles to meet is inside the home with childcare provided/coordinated. Circles may go at their own pace through the series, but most meet once per month.

If you are interested in partnership or would like a better understanding of how the *TH* Formation series can be implemented in your parish community, the Senior Business Development Coordinator, Genevie Alejandro, from the *TH* Formation series team is happy to connect with you, provide an overview, and answer questions.

What You Need to Run It:

End-User Materials: Host Couples and participating couples require access to the *TH* Formation series website to access the following: *TH* Guidebook (available in digital and print) – one per spouse – that includes content for Circle gatherings and the Bring it Home segments for couples, short, visually captivating videos that feature dynamic national speakers and faithful witness couples, and additional resources. Each couple is required to register for each series, at which point they receive a personalized login with access to the *TH* website that serves as a portal to all videos, materials, and recommended resources. All needed materials are included in the annual registration fee.

Leadership Materials and Training: Host Couples begin with a discernment process where they are interviewed and vetted by a member of the St. John Paul II Foundation staff, after which they are invited to register and start Host Couple Formation which consists of 3 hours of an online, self-paced series of videos and activities for Host Couples to complete together. Once Host Couple Formation is completed, each Host Couple receives a printed *TH* Guidebook and instructions/guidance from Foundation staff on how to create their *TH* Circle, invite couples, and start gathering. All needed materials are included in the annual registration fee.

Setting: A *TH* Circle is a group comprised of a Host Couple who facilitates and three to five participating couples who gather together in the home. For each series, a *TH* Circle gathers for seven sessions throughout the year, typically once a month but allowing for flexibility of family life/holidays/scheduling of participants. A Circle gathering lasts approximately 2-2.5 hours in length and includes a meal and conversation, opening prayer and reflection, video, group discussion, closing prayer, and instructions on the Bring it Home activity. After a *TH* Circle has completed the seven sessions in a given series, they are then invited to continue to the next series – eventually totaling seven series or seven years of participation.

Links to Relevant Resources:

Visit the Together in Holiness Series at:

https://thformation.forlifeandfamily.org/

Or go directly to the Participation Form at:

https://thformation.forlifeandfamily.org/th_formation_inquiry

Content Author's Description:

Too often, Catholic families face significant challenges that become overwhelming when experienced in isolation. The *Together in Holiness* Formation series provides practical guidance and support for couples, equipping them to not just survive but thrive as spouses and parents. This is done through intentional communities of friendship and a robust curriculum that encourages couples to pursue a life of holiness and mission.

Parishes are invited to collaborate with the St. John Paul II Foundation by sponsoring the *TH* Formation series annually within their parish community. Some unique elements of the partnership include:

- Dedicated St. John Paul II Foundation staff who provide support to successfully execute and facilitate the implementation of the *TH* Formation series within your parish, while providing additional support to the Host Couples and participating couples throughout the entire life cycle of the *TH* Formation series.
- A discount to all parishioners who participate in the *TH* Formation series and unlimited scholarships to couples in financial need.
- An opportunity to journey with their *TH* Circle for up to seven years, each year diving deeper into one of the seven *TH* Themes based on the life, teaching, and witness of St. John Paul II.
- Availability of ongoing formation for Spanish-speaking couples through professional, theologically accurate, and culturally sensitive translated materials and captioned videos.

The *Together in Holiness* Formation series was created in response to the need for year-round marriage enrichment, evangelization, and catechesis for couples in their early years of marriage or those with children in the home. It encourages couples from within natural communities to journey together into the fullness of God's plan for marriage and family. As the great pope of the family, St. John Paul II, reminds us: "The pastoral intervention of the church in support of the family is a matter of urgency. Every effort should be made to strengthen and develop pastoral care for the family" (Familiaris Consortio, 65).