

1.2 PROMOTING MARRIAGE

CHALLENGES

The distress of contemporary society also seems to be rooted in the lack of social and legal importance connected to marriage and the consequent fragility of family ties, which tend to become increasingly fluid and lack specific public recognition.

The main challenges that arise from this context are family life perceived as a private affair and by the preference given to other forms of cohabitation as an alternative to marriage.

SUGGESTIONS

There is an urgent need to rediscover the foundations of conjugal fidelity and exclusivity, with interventions targeted at emphasizing the value of marriage as an institutional commitment, and in the same way the advantages of the commitment itself.

In the ecclesial sphere, it is worth mentioning the proposal of a **catechumenate for married life**, included in the document *Catechumenal Pathways for Married Life* of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life (2022).

SPECIFIC ACTIONS

- providing vocation discernment services in the particular churches
- guaranteeing services of formation and preparation for marriage and family life
- providing formation to those who teach the catechumenal itineraries for married life
- promoting recreational and/or leisure and volunteer activities for couples
- accompanying couples to protect the marital bond in marriage crisis situations
- promoting services to support children of separated parents as well as the parents
- advocating in the public sphere those values proper to marriage and the married couple
- promoting family groups
- increasing services that assist and encourage maternity and birth
- forming and accompanying young people in a healthy emotional/sexual married life
- promoting and enhancing family self-help groups and associations

Guidelines for family-focused university research

Further research should be conducted on:

- the normative legal aspects of marriage and identifying ways to enhance the marital bond
- evaluation of how marriage affects the intensity of family relationships, people's well-being, and social cohesion
- criticality of economic policies and their relationship with the trend of marriage breakup
- public marriage support interventions
- impact of gender ideologies on individuals' sexual behavior and family relationships
- models of catechumenal itineraries that can be offered in a flexible manner to dioceses for each stage of the catechumenate to married life
- formation of lay people, particularly married couples, on how to accompany young people on catechumenal paths to married life
- causes that, as part of the process of secularization, lead young people (including Catholics) to reject the legal institution of marriage, as well as the sacrament
- models to support the couple's relationship, to care for the marital bond



FAMILY
GLOBAL
COMPACT