

BUILDING A CIVILIZATION OF LOVE

Official Family Newsletter of the Archdiocese of KCK



SPOUSAL ABUSE HAS NO PLACE IN 'FOR BETTER OR WORSE'

BY LIBBY DUPONT

The Sacrament of Matrimony is an amazing gift. When lived joyfully, it has great power to proclaim the love of Christ to the world. But what about when marriage is a source of pain instead of joy?

No marriage is perfect. We can all learn to love our spouses better, and often when we hit a rough patch all we need is a few new tools to reconcile or communicate better. Many couples in our archdiocese have revitalized their marriages through retreats and skills courses. Even couples on the brink of divorce have found healing through counseling or programs like Retrouvaille that specialize in couples in crisis.

But there's a separate category of marriages that we don't talk enough about, and that is one where there is abuse. In these cases, the spouse experiencing violent behavior often tries valiantly to hold things together. It may be that they were raised in an abusive environment, so it feels normal. Other times, they believe that things aren't that bad, that they deserve it or that their spouse will change. Some have reason to fear for their own safety and that of their children if they were to speak up. For people of faith, however, there can be another reason: they think their faith requires it.

So I want to be really clear about two things. First, if you experience hitting, shoving, threats of violence, demeaning name-calling or if your spouse cuts you off from friends and family or financial resources, these are not normal behaviors. They are serious and will not get better by going to marriage enrichment.

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“No marriage is perfect. We can all learn to love our spouses better, and often when we hit a rough patch, all we need is a few new tools to reconcile or communicate better.”

LIBBY DUPONT,
ARCHDIOCESE CONSULTANT



Photo: Scott Webb on Unsplash



Photo: Rowan Heuvel on Unsplash

SPOUSAL ABUSE HAS NO PLACE IN ‘FOR BETTER OR WORSE’, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Secondly, if these behaviors happen in your home, the Church wants you to know that you are loved and you deserve to be safe. The US Bishops, in their document “When I Call for Help” put it this way: “When violence occurs within a sacramental marriage, the abused spouse may question, ‘How do these violent acts relate to my promise to take my spouse for better or for worse?’ The person being assaulted needs to know that acting to end the abuse does not violate the marriage promises.”

If you are experiencing violence at home, I encourage you to reach out for help. SafeLine KS will direct you to local resources by calling 888-363-2287 or texting SAFE to 847411.

If you are not, I invite you to learn more, since it is more common than we realize and the best course of action can be counter-intuitive: [archkck.org/family/care-support/domestic-violence/](https://www.archkck.org/family/care-support/domestic-violence/).

May the peace of Christ reign in all our homes.

RESOURCES

National Domestic Violence Hotline
Provides crisis intervention and referrals to local service providers. Call 800-799-SAFE (7233) or 800-787-3224 (TTY). For more information, go to <https://www.thehotline.org>. Hotline Advocates are available to chat online, Monday to Friday, 9 AM - 7 PM CST.

SafeLine Kansas: 24/7 at 1-888-363-2287 or text SAFE to 847411
Free and confidential support line for Kansans experiencing sexual or domestic violence. This line will connect you with trained professionals who can help you take the next step toward safety and healing.

Catholic Charities of NE Kansas can connect those experiencing abuse with a variety of resources or services that may be necessary.
[CatholiccharitiesKS.org](https://www.catholiccharitiesks.org) | General number: (913) 433-2100

Safehome provides shelter, counseling, support groups and legal aid in Johnson County. Experts in helping survivors, from a secular perspective. 24-Hour hotline: (913) 262-2868 [safehome-ks.org](https://www.safehome-ks.org)

Keeler Women’s Center Located in Kansas City, KS, this ministry of the Benedictine Sisters offers domestic violence support groups. English: (913) 689-9375 Spanish: (913) 689-9375 [keelerwomenscenter.org](https://www.keelerwomenscenter.org)

FOUR SAINTS FROM THE AMERICAS WHOSE WORK WAS PRESENTED IN "DILEXI TE"



LEFT: St. Dulce Lopes Potes & St. Katharine Drexel

RIGHT: St. Francis Xavier Cabrini & St. Oscar Romero

*APOSTOLIC EXHORTATION
DILEXI TE
OF THE HOLY FATHER LEO XIV
TO ALL CHRISTIANS
ON LOVE FOR THE POOR*

Dilexi Te translates to "I have loved you."

Four saints from the Americas received special attention for serving the underprivileged in this exhortation.

"These saints in their own way discovered that the poorest are not only objects of our compassion, but teachers of the Gospel."

Pope Leo XIV

1 ST. DULCE LOPES PONTES 1914-1992

Pope Leo compared the evangelical work of St. Dulce Lopes Pontes, who is known as "St. Dulce of the Poor" and "the good angel of Bahia," to Mother Teresa, but "with Brazilian characteristics." Pontes, who was canonized in 2019, was the first Brazilian female saint. "Sister Dulce responded to precariousness with creativity, obstacles with tenderness, and need with unshakeable faith. She began by taking in the sick in a chicken coop and from there founded one of the largest social services in the country," said Pope Leo. Pontes worked with thousands of people a day, "without ever losing her gentleness, making herself poor with the poor for the love of the Poorest One," stated Dilexi Te. "She lived with little, prayed fervently and served with joy. Her faith did not distance her from the world, but drew her even more deeply into the pain of the least among us."

2 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CABRINI 1850-1917

Most known as "Mother Cabrini," was named by Pope Leo as one of "two great saints who distinguished themselves in the pastoral care of migrants." Cabrini, an immigrant herself, was born in Italy but moved to the United States of America to serve the poor immigrant communities in New York City and beyond, said Pope Leo. She was naturalized as a citizen and was the first U.S. citizen to be canonized. In 1950, Cabrini was named the "Patroness of All Migrants."

3 ST. KATHARINE DREXEL 1858-1955

St. Katharine Drexel, a woman from Philadelphia who was born into considerable wealth, went into religious life as a young woman. Joining the Sisters of Mercy, she would eventually go on to found the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, a religious order that ministered to Black and Indigenous people.

4 ST. OSCAR ROMERO 1917-1980

St. Oscar Romero, who was the archbishop of San Salvador, El Salvador, when he was assassinated on March 24, 1980, served as a "powerful witness and an inspiration for the Church," said Pope Leo. "He had made his own the plight of the vast majority of his flock and made them the center of his pastoral vision," he said. "In the immediate post-conciliar period, in almost all Latin American countries, there was a strong sense of the Church's need to identify with the poor and to participate actively in securing their freedom," said Pope Leo, something that was exemplified in St. Oscar Romero's work.

Source: Aleteia

CANONIZATION OF ST. CARLO ACUTIS & ST. PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

On September 7th, all of Italy—and the world—watched as two Italian laymen became saints. An estimated 80,000 faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square to witness the canonization of the first saints of Pope Leo's pontificate.

Carlo Acutis, a teenager known for his devotion to the Eucharist, was born in 1991 in London, England and raised in Milan, Italy. As a child, he loved to pray the rosary, and once he made his first Communion, he did his best to make it to daily Mass. Fast forward a few years, this computer-savvy teenager went on to use his tech skills to pursue a new realm of digital evangelization. Carlo created an exhibition of Eucharistic miracles that is currently on display in five continents, but can be viewed online at <https://www.miracolieuucaristici.org/en/liste/list.html>. He died of leukemia in 2006 at age 15, and he was beatified by Pope Francis in 2020.

Pier Giorgio Frassati was born in 1901 to a prominent family in Turin, Italy. As shown in the photo below, he loved the great outdoors, with mountain climbing being at the top of the list. St. Pier Giorgio had complete faith in God and persevered through college, dedicating himself to helping the poor and supporting church social teaching. A member of the Dominican Third Order, he served the sick through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He died at age 24 after contracting polio, possibly from one of the people he assisted. In 1990, he was beatified by St. John Paul II.

ADDITIONAL 2025 CANONIZATIONS

Seven other blesseds were canonized on World Mission Sunday on October 19, 2025. Holy men and women, pray for us!

- Blessed Ignatius Maloyan, the martyred Armenian Catholic archbishop of Mardin, which is in present-day Turkey; born in 1869, he was arrested, tortured and executed in Turkey in 1915.
- Blessed Peter To Rot, a martyred lay catechist, husband and father from Papua New Guinea. Born in 1912, he was arrested in 1945 during the Japanese occupation in World War II and was killed by lethal injection while in prison.
- Blessed Vincenza Maria Poloni, founder of the Sisters of Mercy of Verona, Italy; she lived from 1802-1855.
- Blessed Maria Rendiles Martínez, the Venezuelan founder of the Congregation of the Servants of Jesus. Born in Caracas in 1903, she died in 1977. She will be Venezuela's first female saint.
- Blessed Maria Troncatti, a Salesian sister born in Italy in 1883 who became a missionary in Ecuador in 1922. She died in a plane crash in 1969.
- Blessed José Gregorio Hernández Cisneros, a Venezuelan doctor born in 1864. He was a Third Order Franciscan and became known as "the doctor of the poor." He was killed in an accident in 1919 on his way to helping a patient.
- Blessed Bartolo Longo, an Italian lawyer born in 1841. He had been a militant opponent of the church and involved in the occult, but converted, dedicating himself to charity and to building the Pontifical Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary of Pompei. He died in 1926.

Source: www.usccb.org



**"To always be close to Jesus,
that's my life plan."**

ST. CARLO ACUTIS



**"If you have God at the center
of all your actions, then you
will reach the end."**

ST. PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI

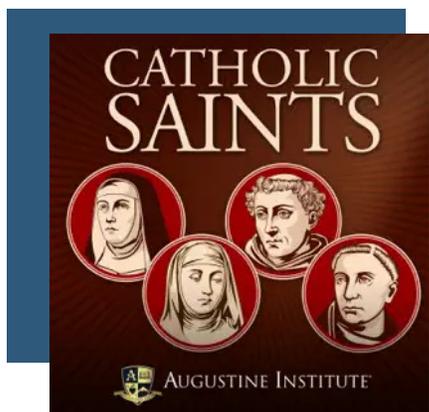
Photos: OSV News photo/courtesy Sainthood Cause of Carlo Acutis and CNS files

The Striving Saint: Resources that Inspire the Road to Sainthood

FEATURED PODCAST

CATHOLIC SAINTS
AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

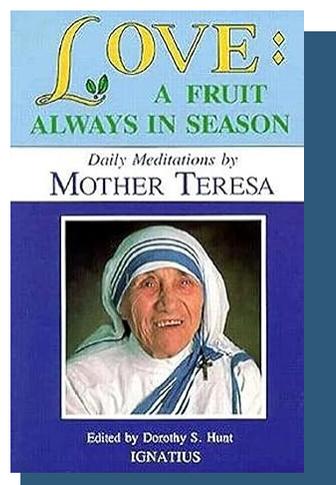
Scripture scholars from the Augustine Institute dive into the lives of the Saints to help us come to a deeper understanding of those heroic men and women who have been transformed by the love of God.



FEATURED BOOKS

LOVE: A FRUIT ALWAYS IN SEASON
DAILY MEDITATIONS BY MOTHER TERESA
IGNATIUS PRESS

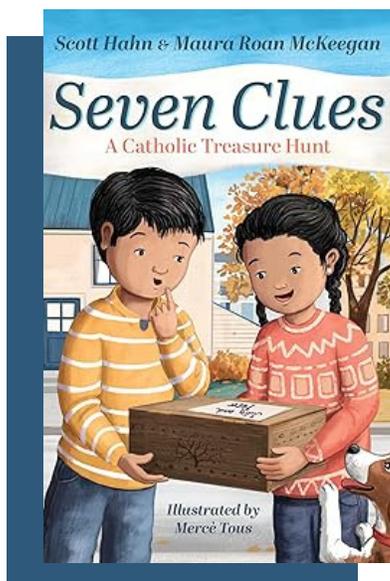
These daily meditations of Mother Teresa have been arranged to coincide with the seasons of the liturgical year and have also been simultaneously arranged according to various themes of the spiritual life. The perfect read for any season of the year, be it beginning or end.



READ ALOUD BOOK FOR FAMILIES

SEVEN CLUES: A CATHOLIC TREASURE HUNT
SCOTT HAHN AND MARA ROAN MCKEEGAN
LOYOLA PRESS

Captivate young audiences by exploring the words, signs, and symbols of the Church as they relate to the life and Resurrection of Jesus. This engaging story is a treasure hunt that leads listeners into a deeper understanding of their Catholic faith. Make this an after-dinner event, where you start a new chapter before tackling the evening housework.



FEATURED PODCAST



Catholic Bedtime Stories
Content geared for ages 3 - 6

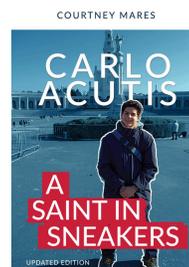
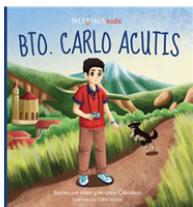
This podcast brings bible tales and saint stories to life! From the creators of the #1 Catholic Kids YouTube channel, comes heartwarming stories of courage, kindness, and faith.

<https://spiritjuicekids.podbean.com>

FEATURED BOOKS

Blessed Carlo Acutis
by Allan & Veronica Caballero
A Theotokos Kids publication

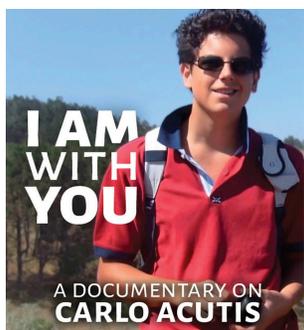
An endearing story of how Carlo Acutis desired nothing more than to go to Heaven to be with Jesus. With a joyful spirit and love for technology, St. Carlo Acutis (canonized Sep. 2025) leads others to Christ and to love Jesus in the Eucharist.



Carlo Acutis: A Saint in Sneakers
by Courtney Mares
Ignatius Press

Vatican journalist Courtney Mares traveled across Italy to tell Carlos' story, interviewing many whose lives he helped transform. This book paints a portrait of him as seen through the eyes of his friends, family, teachers, priests, doctors, classmates, and followers.

FEATURED MOVIE



I AM WITH YOU -
A DOCUMENTARY ON ST. CARLO ACUTIS

Filmed on location in Italy, this EWTN original documentary chronicles the life of Carlo Acutis. Through photos, interviews, and testimonies from family and friends, his story comes alive as a reminder of holiness in our times.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=dUpqQneSOFM>

UPCOMING EVENTS

HEAR WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID ABOUT THE EVERMORE IN LOVE MARRIAGE PREP WEEKEND

“The course’s information will impact the way we communicate, approach conflict and intimacy for the rest of our lives. I feel so much more confident and prepared walking into this sacrament. We can’t thank you enough!
~Marriage Prep Weekend Participant”

THE OFFICE OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE



BRAD DUPONT
LEAD CONSULTANT
bdupont@archkck.org
913-647-0301

LIBBY DUPONT
CONSULTANT
ldupont@archkck.org



SR. MONICA BERNADETTE ARGUELLO, SGTJM
CONSULTANT
marguello@archkck.org
913-647-0329
(Habla Español)



JILL SCALETTY
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
MFLadmin@archkck.org
913-647-0345



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♥ **EVERMORE IN LOVE MARRIAGE PREP WEEKEND RETREAT**
SAVIOR PASTORAL CENTER - KANSAS CITY, KS
NOVEMBER 8-9 @ SAVIOR PASTORAL CENTER - REGISTER [HERE!](#)

♥ **ENCOUNTER MINISTRIES SCHOOL OF HEALING**
NOVEMBER 14-15, 2025
6-9 PM FRIDAY & 8 AM-9:30 PM SATURDAY
SACRED HEART OF JESUS, SHAWNEE, KS
CONSISTS OF FIVE TEACHING SESSIONS FOCUSED ON THE THEOLOGY UNDERPINNING AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF PARTNERING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT TO BRING HEALING TO THE WORLD AROUND YOU. REGISTRATION LINK BELOW.
[HTTPS://ENCOUNTERKC.REGFOX.COM/ENCOUNTER-KC-SCHOOL-OF-HEALING-2025](https://encounterkc.regfox.com/encounter-kc-school-of-healing-2025)

♥ **EVERMORE IN LOVE MARRIAGE PREP WEEKEND RETREAT**
SAVIOR PASTORAL CENTER - KANSAS CITY, KS
JANUARY 10-11 @ SAVIOR PASTORAL CENTER - REGISTER [HERE!](#)

♥ **RETRouvaille MARRIAGE WEEKEND**
JANUARY 23-25, 2026 KANSAS CITY, KS
OUR PRIMARY GOAL IS TO PROVIDE HELP FOR COUPLES WHO LIVE IN THE DISAPPOINTMENT AND PAIN OF MARRIAGE PROBLEMS. THE RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND PROVIDES A SAFE SETTING ENCOURAGING COUPLES TO LEARN COMMUNICATION IN MARRIAGE IN A RESPECTFUL MANNER.
QUESTIONS? RETROKCG@GMAIL.COM

♥ **BENEDICTINE COLLEGE CENTER FOR FAMILY LIFE**
FAMILY WEEK RETREAT
MAY 24-29, 2026 BENEDICTINE CAMPUS
COUPLES AND FAMILIES COME TO FAMILY WEEK FOR A UNIQUE RETREAT EXPERIENCE THAT EXPLORES THE “WHY AND HOW” OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THROUGH A CATHOLIC LENS.
QUESTIONS? PBURGHART@BENEDICTINE.EDU

SIGN UP FOR OUR
FAMILY NEWSLETTER
AND OTHER EMAIL LISTS
ON OUR FLOCKNOTE!

