

Vision and Aims

FAMILIAS recognises that marriage and family life have a specific God given purpose in the lives of individuals, society and the church. Through the ministry of its members FAMILIAS aims to support, nourish and sustain families whatever their circumstances.

FAMILIAS was established in 2008 to:-

- **Share good practice** and make resources more widely available
- **Connect and care for coordinators** by providing peer support, ongoing training and formation
- **Advocate for families and Family Life Ministry** by collaborating with other organisations and bringing concerns to the attention of the Committee for Marriage and Family Life
- **Advise and serve** by responding to issues raised through the Committee for Marriage and Family Life and promoting the work of Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Coordinators

"The future of the world and of the church passes through the family"
Familiaris Consortio #75

Membership and Benefits

There are three levels of membership:

Full membership: £75

For those who coordinate marriage and family life ministry in their diocese at the request of their Bishop.

Associate membership: £10

For those who work alongside a diocesan coordinator eg those who serve on Commissions, working groups, bereavement teams, parenting networks and Diocesan marriage preparation.

Friends of FAMILIAS: £5

Open to any organization, couple or individual who supports the vision and aims of FAMILIAS and would like to stay in touch with the work of the members

Membership Type / Membership Benefits	Full	Associate	Friend
Access to all FAMILIAS resources	Y	Y	
Access to national meetings, training and formation	Y	Y	
Voting rights at national meetings	Y		
Voting rights at regional meetings	Y	Y	
Invitation to Annual Celebration	Y	Y	Y

Joining FAMILIAS

To join FAMILIAS simply complete this form and send it with a cheque made payable to FAMILIAS to Clara Donnelly at the address below.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

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Tel.....

Email.....

Diocese or Organisation.....

Please register me/us as a:

Full Member £75.00

Associate £10.00

Friend £5.00

I enclose a donation to FAMILIAS of £___

Total amount: £___

Please send to Mrs Clara Donnelly, 64 Grosvenor Street, Wallasey, Wirral, CH44 1AQ

Tel/Fax: 0151 6912811

Email: cc.donn@talktalk.net

Thank you for supporting FAMILIAS

Diocesan Family Life Ministry

Within dioceses the exact role of the marriage and family life ministry coordinator varies, as do working conditions, salary scale, and structures of line management and accountability. Nevertheless FAMILIAS understands the role of the Diocesan Coordinator of Family Life Ministry to be at least that accepted by the Bishops' Conference in 1994, that is:

- caring for, supporting and promoting all areas of family life; offering pastoral support to all - clergy and laity - involved in the work of affirming marriage, family life and the parish family
- providing information and resources in family matters for all parishioners and clergy
- organizing training opportunities and coordinating lay involvement
- acting as a link with existing diocesan agencies to support families with a particular need
- strengthening ecumenical links enabling cooperation with other Christian Churches at appropriate diocesan and parish level and where possible offering joint programmes.

Origins of FAMILIAS

Diocesan coordinators have enjoyed an ad-hoc association for a number of years, meeting twice annually in national gatherings and in regional meetings. In 2006 following the outcomes of *Listening 2004 : My Family My Church* and a renewed focus on marriage and family life ministry within the Catholic Church in England and Wales coordinators decided to formally organise themselves as an Association.

FAMILIAS business will be conducted during the regular cycle of national and regional meetings which will continue to take place. Contact details of FAMILIAS members are available on the website, where resources and events will be also be publicised. Members and Associates are additionally supported and resourced through access to the FAMILIAS folder within the Caritas Social Action Network extranet.



FAMILIAS is supported by the Marriage and Family Life Project Office of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX

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Tel: 07817 479694



FAMILIAS

ASSOCIATION
FOR
CATHOLIC
DIOCESAN
MARRIAGE AND
FAMILY LIFE
MINISTRY

www.familias-ew.org.uk