



# MINISTRIES IN ACTION

DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG | CATHOLIC MINISTRY *Appeal*



## TWO RESOURCES: *The Center of the Family*

“ The 5th Encuentro and *Ministry with Families 101* have been very great resources, providing motivation for our ministry, Matrimonio, Diálogo, Seguimiento or Marriage Dialogue Support (MDS).

One of the main themes of the 5th Encuentro is accompaniment, especially in the family. MDS stands out as a support group for marriages and the family, and by participating we solidify our mission to accompany couples and families, especially those going through difficulties.

We really liked “The Stages of Family Growth Life Cycle” from *Ministry with Families 101* and applied it to our ministry. Through it, we learned that each stage of marriage is different, and the family is constantly changing. It is important to know what stage we are in and what challenges as well as rewards we can obtain, learn and apply to our spiritual life, recognizing that our spiritual life has its challenges and rewards. For example, when we are new parents our needs as a couple are totally different than when we are in the empty-nest stage.

We feel that through our ministry, we are on the path that our Church wants, supporting existing marriages and couples toward sacramental marriages and guiding not only marriages towards God but also the children that are part of the marriage, the future of our Church. We know now that it all starts in the center of the family. ”

-Deacon Elix and Lucy Castro  
MDS Ministry

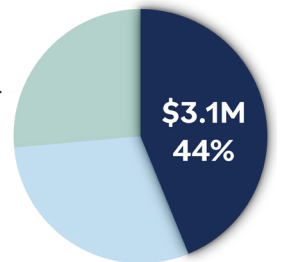
“The experience of love in families is a perennial source of strength for the life of the Church.”



- Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia* 88

## ENCOUNTERING GOD and NURTURING our SPIRITUAL LIFE

Marriage & Family Life and Ministry to Multicultural Communities are two of 11 diocesan ministries that embrace God’s call to serve, and offer all who seek God an opportunity to encounter Him and enrich our spiritual lives, fostering our response to God’s call to serve. Through the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*, this group of ministries will receive \$3.1 million of the total \$7.1 million appeal goal to carry out their good works.



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE about these ministries!**



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