



SOMETHING
NEW for the
FAMILY!



. . . something really new!

Marriage and marriages are in trouble today. And if marriages fail, so does society.

There are many important Movements in our time offering programs aimed at strengthening marriage and family life.

But now there is a new Movement with a new approach: not a program of reform but actual reform as couples vow and consecrate their married and family lives in a Church-regulated Movement: the **Holy Family Institute**.



What is the Holy Family Institute?

The Institute is a branch of the PAULINE FAMILY, a worldwide Religious group of Priests, Brothers and Sisters, plus consecrated men and women, married and single. In the United States, the Religious of the FAMILY are: the Society of St. Paul, the Daughters of St. Paul and the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master.

The Institute confers on married couples the privilege of being consecrated and vowed in their married state. These are not the vow of Religious, but they are, nevertheless, approved and regulated by the Church and governed by their own Statute. They require only an intensification of the married lifestyle (and not a radical change as in the Religious Life), but they are still a wonderful divine gift to couples in this new century.



A group of Institute members and their families at the end of their annual Triduum or “3 days of Prayer and Friendship” during which they meet old friends, greet new arrivals and take one of the steps on their way to Perpetual Profession. It is the high-point of their year!

**CONGREGATION FOR THE INSTITUTES OF CONSECRATED LIFE AND
THE SOCIETIES OF APOSTOLIC LIFE Prot. No. A. 77-1/81**

DECREE

The Servant of God, Fr. James Alberione, moved by the desire to promote the spiritual good and sanctity of the Christian family, founded in 1963 the Institute called "Holy Family", for husbands and wives who wish to commit themselves to seeking evangelical perfection in marriage by means of the vows of conjugal chastity, poverty and obedience.

On June 19, 1982, the Holy See declared that the Institute was a Work proper to the Society of St. Paul and aggregated to it, and approved its Statute for a ten-year experimental period.

When the experimental period ended with positive results, the Superior General of the Society of St. Paul presented a new Statute of the above mentioned Institute to the Apostolic See, humbly asking that it be definitively approved.

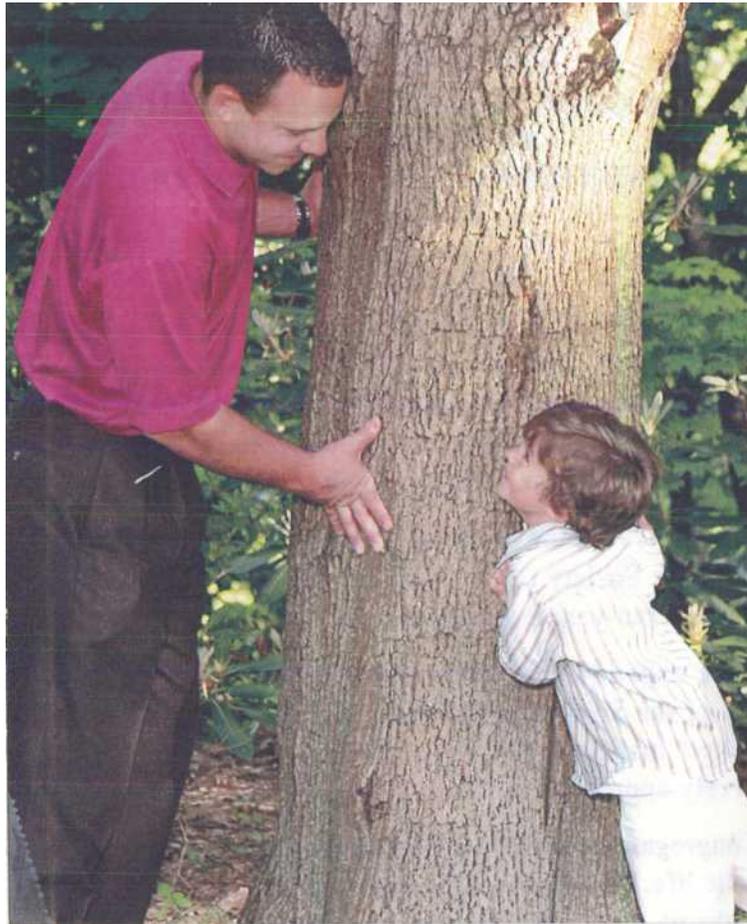
This Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated life and the Societies of Apostolic life, having carefully examined the Statute presented, approves and confirms it with this Decree, with the alterations introduced by this same Congregation, in conformity, with the official Italian-language copy conserved in the Congregation's archives.

Inspired by the example of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Institute members should increasingly understand their particular vocation in the family - "the little domestic church" - so as to bring to it an authentic conjugal love.

Given at Rome, March 19, 1993, Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Eduardo Cardinal Martinez Somalo *Prefect*
+ Francisco Javier Errazuriz Ossa *Secretary*.

Important Institute Advantages



- The everyday life of the couple now has a new focus, a new orientation, a new purpose.
- They have a special incentive to be faithful to their marriage promises and to their duty of guiding their children in proper living.
- They live their consecration in and through their daily duties, in the home and in the workplace, with the many strains and stresses this involves.
- They practice, therefore, a domestic spirituality, not a monastic one.

The Holy Family Institute:

A new gift of God to the married!

- The Institute is a vowed organization. Although we may associate “vows” with a penitential lifestyle (e.g., the Religious life), vows do not always involve renunciation - that is just one possibility.
- In fact, they can be lived in any Catholic lifestyle including marriage, and with a significant advantage: the lifestyle is unchanged, but its spiritual value is affirmed and increased.
- The Religious person vows Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, thus renouncing his or her right to possessions, to marriage and to freedom of choice.
- The **Holy Family Institute member** vows Poverty (proper administration of goods), Conjugal Chastity (observance of Church law pertaining to marriage) and Obedience (observance of Church and civil law and of the spirituality and prayer of the Institute).
- This means that members affirm their vows made on their wedding day and continue to live them, but more intensely.
- In other words, any couple living a good Catholic marriage is already living the Institute lifestyle!

Institute prayer and spirituality

There are just 10 minutes of prayer in the morning and evening (you may already say more than that) and a brief exam of conscience. That's all!

The emphasis is always on serving the Lord in and through normal family life with its stresses and strains. It is in your family that you learn patience, tolerance, forgiveness, humility, kindness, and above all faith as each day brings its own challenges. The Divine Master served his Father perfectly for twenty years in regular family life.

Preparation for Membership: This is by correspondence: reading formation materials and listening to CDs. In some areas there are local groups where members can get together. Once a year, there is a TRIDUUM or "Three Days of Prayer and Friendship" where you can meet members from all over the country and participate in the ceremonies as you advance in your preparation. The Institute is aggregated or linked to the PAULINE FAMILY, a worldwide Religious organization using modern media to evangelize. This link makes you a member not only of the Institute but of the entire FAMILY.

Find out more: www.hfiusa.org

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