

St. Mary's Parish Partnership Agreement

The parish leaders of St. Mary's parish, speaking on behalf of all, make the following promises to you as a household:

- 1) We promise to make the Sunday assembly (Mass), the single most important focal point of parish life. We'll prepare for it carefully and help you as a household to be prepared for it, ready to participate and actively engage in the rites. Each week, we will offer you a question arising from the Sunday readings. You can use this question as a starting point to discuss and share faith in your home.
- 2) We'll welcome you to our Sunday assembly regardless of your situation in life, whether you're struggling with your faith or firm in your commitment. We'll maintain an open door and an open heart to you, and we'll offer you a share in the grace of Christ which fills this church.
- 3) We'll offer you a quality religious education program and we promise to use instructional materials approved by the local bishop. We promise that the catechists who teach in the parish program will be prepared for their work, and will truly "echo the faith" in their own lives.
- 4) We also promise to be a resource center for your household, making available materials that best meet your needs, including books, videos, music, and web sites.
- 5) We also promise to offer programs to assist you as a household in living your faith more openly and explicitly. We will assist you in following the liturgical year in your own home, especially during Advent and Lent.
- 6) We'll also help you as a household find ways to serve the ill, the poor, the rejected, and the suffering. If you wish, we'll train you to visit the sick, the imprisoned, the lonely, and the refugee. We'll help you become aware of the needs of the local community in which you live.
- 7) In general, we promise to provide the resources you need to help you live according to the Christian Way of Life and bring your family closer to the person of Jesus Christ.

Signed: _____

As a household of St. Mary's parish, we commit to the following:

(Please check those you, as a household, will commit to for this year)

__ 1) We promise to offer one another more signs of the love in our household, through the exchange of notes, gifts and other signs of affection. We'll try to pay more attention to one another, caring for each other and offering each other both privacy and companionship.

__ 2) We promise to share __ (#) significant household meal(s) each week. We'll try to cook together, linger for a while at the table and clean up together.

__ 3) If there's a quarrel within our household, we'll work for reconciliation which is explicit and expressed in words such as "I am sorry" and "I forgive you".

__ 4) We promise to give some of our money for the needs of the parish and the care of the poor.

__ 5) We promise to be present and active in the St. Mary's Sunday assembly each week, and if we can't attend one of those three Masses, we will find a Mass at another parish that we can attend.

__ 6) After Mass, we'll continue to observe Sunday as a "day off" from regular life. We'll postpone shopping and work as much as possible and try to do something together as a household, such as a meal, which extends the celebration of the Mass in the rest of our lives.

__ 7) We'll help each other memorize certain prayers and understand what they mean. We'll encourage each other to pray daily, and we'll provide means ***within our household*** to make that possible, such as prayer books, sacred spaces, occasional quiet times, and signs of our faith.

__ 8) Every night before bed we'll offer one another a simple blessing such as: "Good night. God bless you. I love you."

Signed: _____

For the Household of: _____ (name of candidate)