

***Together in Holiness* – Diocese of Nashville**
Saturday, September 12, 2026 | Catholic Pastoral Center, Nashville, TN

FAMILY, A SEEDBED OF VOCATIONS

PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

CALLED AND SET APART: LIVING THE CALL TO HOLINESS IN THE FAMILY

Ryan Hanning, PhD, Fellow, St. John Paul II Foundation

St. John Paul II describes the profound influence his father had upon his vocation: “Day after day I was able to observe the austere way in which [my father] lived ...his example was in a way my first seminary, a kind of domestic seminary.” Every household can prepare future generations to answer the call to marriage, to priesthood, or to the religious/consecrated life. This talk will focus on the different ways in which the family can nourish our vocation to sanctity and the personal vocation entrusted to us by the Father for the good of others. This talk will outline the fundamental understanding of the notion of vocation as it relates to the identity and mission of the family.

NURTURING VOCATIONS IN THE HOME

Dr. Matthew and Mrs. Franchelle Jaeger

What is the role of the family in developing a culture of vocations? According to Pope Francis, “All vocations make their first steps in the family.” This presentation will draw upon the wisdom and pastoral experience of the Church and personal stories to demonstrate the invaluable mission that married couples and families have to nourish and form all vocations. The speaker will offer us insight into how the family becomes a healthy seedbed of vocations.

THE EUCHARISTIC MISSION OF THE FAMILY

Sister John Mary Sullivan, FSE, Director, Franciscan Life Center

Marriage is a sacrament at the service of communion. It is, as the *Catechism* describes, “directed towards the salvation of others; if it contributes as well to personal salvation, it is through service to others that it does so” (§ 1534). The Catholic family comes from and is ordered to this mission of communion, a mission which originates not in the married couple but in the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Lord. It is his mission that the married couple serves and to which the family is ordered. In this session we will look at how the family in particular is united with Jesus and one another in the Holy Eucharist.