

# *Fiat Couples Groups*

## *Fellowship and Faith-Sharing for Catholic Married Couples*



- WHO:** 4-8 married couples (parish priests are invited to join the group whenever possible)
- WHAT:** Couples meet monthly (rotating at member's homes) for faith-sharing and dinner
- WHEN:** Saturday night, once a month; groups may choose to meet another time though Saturday nights seem to work best (as do regularly scheduled meetings, such as the first Saturday of every month)
- WHERE:** Couples homes rotating monthly (though some groups do meet at the parish)
- WHY:** For faith-sharing and dinner; see below for more on these elements
- HOW:** It's simple to start and maintain! See reverse for "7 Steps to Start a Fiat Couples Group."

### **TWO MAIN ELEMENTS:**

1. **FAITH SHARING:** The prayer time is usually an hour to an hour and half and it consists of written prayers (in the *Prayer Guide*), reading and reflecting on the Sunday Gospel – *lectio divina* (not all have to comment, only those who would like to), sharing prayer thanks, and offering prayer requests. The *Fiat Couples Prayer Guide* (available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole) contains the format and content of the prayer. The themes of the written prayers (for the opening, closing, and interspersed between the *lectio divina* and prayer portions) include natural marriage; sacramental marriage; and missionary marriage. The *Prayer Guides* can be purchased. Individual = \$5; A Starter Pack (8 *Fiat Couples Prayer Guides* and all a group needs and which can be passed from home to home) = \$25; A Full Set (of 64 *Fiat Couples Prayer Guides* which is enough for 8 couples to have their own set) = \$175.
2. **POT-LUCK DINNER:** The evening concludes with a potluck dinner. The host provides the main course. All other couples bring accompanying dishes. The dinner time is a relaxed, fun time of fellowship. Schedule template is available online for download and group usage.

Together, the prayer time and potluck dinner builds intimacy between spouses and community between couples. We often hear testimonies from couples that this is the first time they have heard their spouse reflect on Scripture or offer prayer thanks or requests in a setting like this. We also often hear that couples look forward to it all month, knowing it will be a great night out — enriching, edifying, inspiring, and fun!

*"My favorite Saturday nights are sharing faith, food, and love with our Fiat Couple's group. We have become like family, helping each other on this journey, supporting each others' marriages, and growing deeper in our faith...together!"* – Dana

*"What better way to spend an evening than to pray, give thanks, discuss the Gospel, and enjoy a great meal with like-minded Catholic couples! We bond, we grow and we laugh a lot as well! That's community and we love it!"* – Liz & Adolfo

*"My wife Laura and I look so forward to sharing a Saturday night with our friends in Christ. The opportunity to break bread together and share our collective thoughts on the Sunday gospel is so powerful. It has created a powerful bond with this group and also strengthened our marriage and faith."* – Alex & Laura

*Start a group today! You will be glad you do and so will the couples you invite!*



# 7 STEPS

## TO START A *Fiat Couples Group* IN YOUR PARISH

### 1. Meet with your pastor to obtain approval.

Even though this group meets in homes, it is a parish-based ministry. It should operate with the knowledge, approval and support of your pastor. The pastor (and any other parish priests) should be made aware of the schedule and should receive a standing invitation to attend whenever possible.

### 2. Personally invite four to eight married couples to join your group.

You can share the website: [www.AnnunciationMinistries.com](http://www.AnnunciationMinistries.com) with those you invite so that they have a sense of what the group does. Notify couples of the date of your first gathering and invite couples to bring something for the first potluck meal.

### 3. Gather supplies.

- Fiat Couples Group Prayer Guide***. Purchase enough for one per couple. You can either purchase one set of prayer guides and pass them between homes or you can purchase enough that each couple has a full set at their home. To purchase Guides: [www.AnnunciationMinistries.com](http://www.AnnunciationMinistries.com).
- Bible (with Sunday Gospel bookmarked).
- Candle and a lighter or matches.
- Object for passing during the prayer (crucifix, *Marriage Missionary sculpture* or other religious object).

### 4. Hold your first gathering.

These are recommended times. You can adjust to meet your group's specific needs.

- 7:00pm Arrival and appetizers
- 7:30pm Prayer time (follow the *Fiat Couples Group Prayer Guide*)
- 8:30pm Dinner and fellowship

### 5. Schedule your next gatherings.

Set dates for at least the next six to twelve months. We recommend Saturday nights (though a group can pick a different evening). We also recommend picking a set week in the month, such as the first Saturday of every month. This helps people build other commitments around their commitment to this group.

### 6. Create your calendar and potluck chart.

After your first meeting, create a chart indicating dates, who is hosting, and who is bringing the various accompanying dishes. The free downloadable template pictured can be modified for your group. It is available at [www.AnnunciationMinistries.com](http://www.AnnunciationMinistries.com).

Sample Calendar and Chart

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Couple 1	Hosting Main Course	Dessert	Side Dish	Side Dish	Appetizer	Appetizer	Appetizer	Bread & Wine
Couple 2	Bread & Wine	Hosting Main Course	Dessert	Side Dish	Salad	Salad	Appetizer	Appetizer
Couple 3	Appetizer	Bread & Wine	Hosting Main Course	Dessert	Side Dish	Side Dish	Salad	Appetizer
Couple 4	Appetizer	Appetizer	Bread & Wine	Hosting Main Course	Side Dish	Side Dish	Side Dish	Salad
Couple 5	Salad	Appetizer	Appetizer	Bread & Wine	Hosting Main Course	Dessert	Side Dish	Side Dish
Couple 6	Side Dish	Salad	Appetizer	Appetizer	Bread & Wine	Hosting Main Course	Dessert	Side Dish
Couple 7	Side Dish	Side Dish	Salad	Appetizer	Appetizer	Bread & Wine	Hosting Main Course	Dessert
Couple 8	Dessert	Side Dish	Side Dish	Salad	Appetizer	Appetizer	Bread & Wine	Hosting Main Course

### 7. Register your group at [www.AnnunciationMinistries.com](http://www.AnnunciationMinistries.com).

Registration is not required but is recommended. It's a way for all groups to be connected through a network and support structure to share stories and effective practices. We are praying for you and hope this ministry is a source of grace in your life!

We at Annunciation Ministries offer you our prayers and support for the success of your group. We invite you to register your group with us (through our website) so we know you are meeting and can stay in touch (via periodic newsletters). We pray that your participation in a *Fiat Couples Group* draws you closer together as a couple, closer to Christ and His Church, and closer to the other couples in your group. May the Holy Spirit guide your group. May Mother Mary intercede for each of you. May God be glorified by your lives, marriages, and families.

For more information, to order *Prayer Guides*, register your group, or download a schedule template please visit: