

**Covenant: a formal and solemn written promise between two or more parties
especially for the performance of some action**

St. Anthony Parish
Partnership Covenant

The household of

Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

- ___1) We promise to offer one another more love in our household, through the exchange of love 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) At least once a month we will spend time (with the TV off) compiling a family scrapbook and photo album containing bits and pieces from the people and events of our household.
- ___3) We promise to share one significant household meal each week, adding a bit of romance to our table (candlelight, flowers). We'll try to cook together, linger for a while at the table, and clean up together.
- ___4) If there is 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."
- ___5) We promise to become more conscious of those people in our family, neighborhood, Parish, or wider society whom we dislike. We promise to gossip less and affirm more.
- ___6) We promise to give some of our money for the needs of the Parish and the care of the poor.
- ___7) At least once a week, as a household, we promise to do at least one thing to improve the care of the earth on which we live. This might include recycling, picking up trash, going for a hike, or caring for a garden.
- ___8) We promise to be present and active at the Sunday Liturgy each week, or as often as possible for us. 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 into the rest of our lives.
- ___9) We will encourage each other to pray daily, and we'll provide means within our household to make that possible, such as teach each other prayers, sacred spaces, occasional quiet times, and signs of our faith. Every night before bed we'll offer one another a simple blessing: "God bless you. I love you. Good night."
- ___10) We also promise to contribute some of our free time for the needs of the Parish. As time allows us to, we'll volunteer time for Parish programs, or other needs of the neighborhood or community.

On the part of the Parish

We, the Parish leaders (members of Parish Pastoral Council, ministry leaders and staff) of St. Anthony Parish, speaking on behalf of all, make the following promises to you as a household:

- 1) We promise to make the Sunday Liturgies the single most important focal point of Parish life. We'll prepare for it carefully and help you as a household to be well disposed for it, ready to participate, and actively engaged in the rites. Each week in the bulletin, we will offer you a significant question arising from the Sunday readings on which you can share as a household of faith.
- 2) We'll welcome you to our Sunday Liturgy regardless of your situation in life, whether you're married, single, widowed, divorces, remarried, in an ecumenical or interfaith marriage, gay or lesbian, or sharing a home without marriage; whether you're an immigrant or a newcomer; whether you're fully abled or handicapped, healthy or sick, old or young; 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 faith formation program and we promise to use instructional materials approved by the local bishop and faithful to the wider Catholic Christian Church. We promise that the catechists who teach in the Parish program will be prepared for their work, and will truly echo their faith in their own lives.
- 4) We also promise to be a resource center for your household, making available the materials that best meet your needs, including books, videos, music, and web sites.
- 5) From time to time, we also promise to offer evening, Sunday or Saturday 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're here for you, to help deepen and affirm your faith and your Way of Life. We promise to assemble each Sunday to celebrate the Lord's Supper and to welcome you to join us. Beyond that, we promise to provide the resources you need to help you live within your household according to the Catholic Christian Way of Life.

I/We, as members of the _____ household, agree to do, to the best of our ability, all of the promises we checked on the reverse side.

Signature(s) _____

We, as Parish leaders, agree to do all of the above promises listed on this side of the covenant paper.

Parish Representative _____