

Defending Our Fathers House

Michael T. Ross, MD, FACEP

President & Co-Founder

GOD LOVES DETROIT

*A FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR MARRIAGE & FAMILY RESTORATION
IN METRO DETROIT*

MISSION GOAL:

RESTORE ONE NATION UNDER GOD WITH JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN

MISSION OBJECTIVE:

**REBUILD THE DIVINE ORDER UNDER GOD—ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN IN UNION
WITH JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN COMMUNITY BY COMMUNITY**

ANNUAL OUTCOME MEASURES:

ANNUAL MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE DATA WILL BE TRACKED IN 7 CATEGORIES BY RATES AND TOTALS FOR: MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, COHABITATION, UNWED BIRTHS, MARRIED HOUSEHOLDS, AND MARRIED HOUSEHOLDS WITH MINOR OR OWN CHILDREN. CENSUS DATA WILL PROVIDE THE SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY DATA IN THE METRO DETROIT GEOGRAPHY WHEREAS LOCAL AREA *COMMUNITY RESTORATION*¹ TEAMS WILL TRACK PROGRESS REGIONALLY WITH POOLED DATA FROM COLLABORATING CONGREGATIONS AND OTHER SOURCES.

SEVEN SPECIFIC OUTCOME MEASURE OBJECTIVES:

- Increase marriage
- Decrease divorce
- Decrease cohabitation
- Decrease unwed births
- Increase married households
- Increase married households with minor children
- Increase married households with own children

¹ Community Restoration Agreement (CRA)

Strategy & Method: Create a Metro Detroit theme focus for restoration of marriage & family life over the next five years that culminates in a seventh **Year of Jubilee** to recognize and celebrate accumulated accomplishments that began April 7, 2014:

I. YEAR OF MARRIAGE - 2014

- Establish a timeline with specific implementation outcomes beginning for initiating basic marriage care and mentoring that will eventually be available throughout the community.
- Clergy and other marriage & family stakeholders initiate A Prayer for Marriage & Family Restoration in Metro Detroit with regularly scheduled prayer gatherings in the congregation and throughout the interfaith community.
- Gather clergy of all faiths to sign Community Restoration Agreements as public events by region and community to implement marriage mentor ministry at their houses of worship that will *prepare* the engaged, *enrich* the married, *restore* spouses in crisis, *reconcile* separated couples, and support step-family couples (*married and unmarried*).
- Form a team to recruit colleges and universities to research and track this effort
- Prepare an annual monograph on progress
- Plan and prepare for the next year's theme while continuing to grow the theme for this year
- Share this vision with other Great Lakes communities such as Chicago, Evanston, Cleveland, Toledo, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Erie, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Duluth, Green Bay, Rochester, Niagara Falls, etc. to inspire a Great Lakes Miracle for marriage & family and the Divine Plan.

II. YEAR OF THE SPOUSES - 2015

- CRA teams offer specific education and mentoring for young couples, married and unmarried, to help them understand the importance of love & respect and the complementary nature of spousal relationship, the role of spouse, how gender affects that role, need for division of labor within the relationship inside & outside the household, and of key behaviors that assure vitality for the relationship.
 - For *unmarried parent couples*, implement mentoring to prepare each couple to marry and create a married household for their family
 - For *single parents*, offer education and mentoring which helps them grow as individuals who may one day enter a marriage

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- For *singles*, offer basic interpersonal relationship and communication skills regarding healthy boundaries, friendship, employment, family life, opposite sex relationships, age, cultural differences, and behaviors that safeguard good relationships.
 - Plan and prepare for the next year's theme while continuing to grow the themes for these two years
 - Share this vision with other Great Lakes communities such as Chicago, Evanston, Cleveland, Toledo, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Erie, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Duluth, Green Bay, Rochester, Niagara Falls, etc. to inspire a Great Lakes Miracle for marriage & family and the Divine Plan.
- III. YEAR OF CHILD & PARENTS - 2016**
- For parents, CRA teams offer basic parent-child education and mentoring that includes child development and needs, behavior management, learning and education, healthcare, teaching children about relationships and about self-governance.
 - CRA teams initiate a public and private campaign throughout the community and at all levels to make the parent-child relationship a primary focus for increased awareness, overall support and accommodation, enhanced service and workability, improved systems, and family life growth for each household and every community.
 - Plan and prepare for the next year's theme while continuing to grow the themes for these past three years
 - Share this vision with other Great Lakes communities such as Chicago, Evanston, Cleveland, Toledo, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Erie, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Duluth, Green Bay, Rochester, Niagara Falls, etc. to inspire a Great Lakes Miracle for marriage & family and the Divine Plan.
- IV. YEAR OF THE FAMILY - 2017**
- Develop campaigns to encourage public and private organizations, bodies, agencies, and service providers to accommodate their systems and services to recognize the unique needs of families and to improve overall workability for families, including spouses, parents, children, and other relatives involved in the care of minor children, disabled, elderly, or other family members
 - Organize to seek specific legislation to strengthen and safeguard marriage, parental rights, family life, and the interests of houses of worship in family life:

- By removing perverse social welfare and other incentives to cohabitate, eschew marriage, conceive out of wedlock, and divorce
 - By restoring the contractual protections of marriage and regarding its covenantal character
 - Recognizing a constitutional and 1st Amendment foundation for religious marriages contracted within a faith community; for marriages contracted within a religious community, formal release from that institution should be a legal requirement when filing for divorce
 - By shifting economic and tax policy to facilitate the affordability and workability of family life across its natural life cycle from marriage, child birth and rearing, child development, disability and illness, education, and caring for elderly family members
- Plan and prepare for the next year's theme while continuing to grow the themes for these past four years
 - Share this vision with other Great Lakes communities such as Chicago, Evanston, Cleveland, Toledo, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Erie, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Duluth, Green Bay, Rochester, Niagara Falls, etc. to inspire a Great Lakes Miracle for marriage & family and the Divine Plan.

V. YEAR OF THE COMMUNITY FAMILY - 2018

- Initiate public and private campaigns to spread the fruit of the Metro Detroit Miracle to other Michigan communities and to offer consultation and assistance
- Initiate public and private campaigns that unify neighborhoods and communities in recognition of the larger community of family that is represented by public and private enterprise, including that of faith organizations, by government at all levels, and by all activity to links us together as a people
- Plan and prepare for the next year's theme while continuing to grow the themes for these past five years
- Share this vision with other Great Lakes communities such as Chicago, Evanston, Cleveland, Toledo, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Erie, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Duluth, Green Bay, Rochester, Niagara Falls, etc. to inspire a Great Lakes Miracle for marriage & family and the Divine Plan.

VI. YEAR OF THE TEMPLE - 2019

- CRA teams encourage public and private campaigns to identify current statutes and policies that encroach upon religious civil liberties and

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houses of worship in operation and administration of ministries and care they provide their congregation as individuals and as families

- Marriage & family stakeholders and advocates seek legislation and policy that firmly safeguards first amendment rights for religious organizations and individuals
- Plan and prepare for the next year's theme of recognizing and celebrating six years of accomplishments for marriage and family life while growing the theme for this year
- Share this vision with other Great Lakes communities such as Chicago, Evanston, Cleveland, Toledo, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Erie, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Duluth, Green Bay, Rochester, Niagara Falls, etc. to inspire a Great Lakes Miracle for marriage & family and the Divine Plan.

VII. YEAR OF JUBILEE - 2020 THE METRO DETROIT MIRACLE YEAR

- Publish census results which show improvements in seven outcome measures
- Publicize accomplishments throughout the community with the help of the faith community, business, media, social service organizations, and colleges and universities
- CRA teams and their networks celebrate this Jubilee Year from January 1 through December 31, 2020 by uniting it with all other routine and seasonal celebrations and events such as New Year's Eve & Day, major public, private, religious, and ethnic Holidays, Super-Bowl Sunday, President's Day, Black History Month, onset of Spring, Bat Day (opening of baseball season), Tax Day, Parents Day, Mothers' Day, Memorial Day, school graduations, Fathers' Day, 4th of July, Playoffs, Yom Kippur, Labor Day, Veteran's Day, All Souls Day, Thanksgiving, events activities in houses of worship, interfaith events, Hanukkah, Christmas season, etc.
- Plan at least two stand alone Marriage & Family Jubilee Year events including one that is televised
- Plan for a year- long community-wide Prayer of Thanksgiving with local congregational prayer and interfaith community prayer sessions
- Share this vision with other Great Lakes communities such as Chicago, Evanston, Cleveland, Toledo, Milwaukee, Buffalo, Erie, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Duluth, Green Bay, Rochester, Niagara Falls, etc. to inspire a Great Lakes Miracle for marriage & family and the Divine Plan.