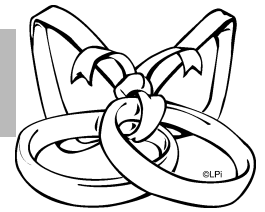


Marriage Preparation & Beyond



Before Marriage

- ◆ Provide Marriage preparation incorporating Catholic teaching on the Sacramental dimension of Marriage, human sexuality, and family life. Include the 5 C's of Marriage—Commitment, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Children, Church
- ◆ Does our parish, bulletin or handout provide the policies and procedures for celebrating a Marriage ceremony?
- ◆ When answering an inquiry about a wedding is the first thing we respond; “Congratulations on this part of your journey, we are so happy that you have chosen to share this moment with us?”
- ◆ Provide materials to involve new couples in preparation and celebration for their marriage ritual.
- ◆ Do we provide a ritual for becoming engaged, family celebrations when a child marries, or a ritual to bless a new home...however humble? Resources available through *Young Adult Works*—Center for Ministry Development. www.cmdnet.org or *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers* (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC 2007)

Need to train couples to facilitate in your Pre-Cana program? Want to start a Pre-Cana program at your parish or in your vicariate? *Perspectives On Marriage* is just the program for you!

The program is perfect for a sponsor couple format; in a group gathering at a church facility for at least three sessions or a one day session. Please contact Tom & Jean Noonan directly at 716-632-5026 or email tjn819@hotmail.com. They are delighted to work with you to serve your needs.

Perspectives on Marriage: Catholic Edition
ACTA Publications, Skokie, IL.
www.actapublications.com

Diocesan Resources

The Office of Family Life Ministries
www.buffalodiocese.org/Outreach/FamilyLife.aspx
Deacon Tom and Gini Schultz, Directors
716-847-2210
(For Marriage Preparation & Enrichment Resources)

<p>Greg Coogan Young Adult Ministry Coordinator Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministry gcoogan@buffalodiocese.org 716-847-8793</p>

Web based Resources

Getting Married from Engagement to Honeymoon: Tips for a less stressful, more meaningful Christian Marriage

Book offered on-line through the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown's Family Life Office
www.ajdiocese.org

FOCCUS

Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study is one program offered for couples preparing for marriage.

www.foccusinc.com

For Your Marriage is a website designed to share with couples who may be dating, engaged, newlywed, in a mature marriage or empty nesters. It provides resources for preparation and caring for your marriage from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

www.foryourmarriage.org

The Wedding is a day.....a Marriage is a lifetime

- Provide newly married couples with resources they can use to learn together on a variety of topics including prayer, communication and conflict-resolution using websites, books, CDs, and podcasts.
- Organize a mentoring program for engaged couples beginning with marriage preparation and continuing through the first year of marriage.
- Provide follow up with newly married couples through an e-newsletter for newly married couples
- Develop small groups of new couples or families with young children to explore significant faith issues in their lives and develop skills for sharing faith.
- Provide prayer cards for special events and experiences including wedding anniversaries or the birth of a new child.
- Celebrate rituals and blessings at Sunday liturgy or at other times that are responsive to the lives of young adults such as sacramental anniversaries, wedding, new homes or apartments, engagements, expecting mothers.
- Provide resources that help young adults, especially new couples and families with young children, create and celebrate a regular calendar of home rituals, milestones (birthdays), rights of passage (graduation, new job), Church year rituals, and ethnic celebrations.
- Connect new couples with church and private groups that encourage alternative approaches to family vacations such as the developing world immersions experiences and Habitat for Humanity work weeks.

Is the Sacrament of Matrimony:

- just for the couple themselves?
- or is it a gift for the whole Church?

When did your parish last:

- mention Marriage in the General Intercessions at Mass?
- use the blessing of married couples from the Book of Blessings?
- acknowledge and encourage 5 and 10 year anniversary couples?

Imagine if every marriage in your parish in it were stronger. How would that affect:

- your Sunday worship?
- the spiritual formation of children at home and in the classroom?
- the vitality of the domestic churches of the home?
- the moral tenor of your parish?
- the availability of volunteers?
- the financial status of families and your parish?
- the ability of your parish to reach out?

Foundations Newsletter

Foundations' goal is to offer resources for couples starting on the journey of married life.
www.foundationsnewsletter.net

Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan

A Pastoral Letter from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (Washington, DC, November 2009)
www.usccb.org/laity/LoveandLife/

For Your Marriage: An Initiative of the USCCB. Offers many practical avenues to share with newly married couples to strengthen communication, skills for conflict resolution and faith.

www.foryourmarriage.org