



Marriage Preparation Program

EXPECTATIONS FOR SERVING

The following is a summary of the expectations and responsibilities of a couple or individual interested in serving for the Marriage Preparation program. The program consists of two separate seminars that are both instrumental in fully preparing engaged couples for marriage. Couples are asked to chose the program best suited to them.

Real Life, Real Love. A witness and dialogue day with married couples sharing their experiences on key relationship skills including self-awareness, communication, intimacy and marriage as a faith journey. Engaged couples spend time dialoguing privately on these issues.

GOD'S PLAN FOR A JOY-FILLED Marriage Seminar style training on the Catholic meaning of marriage and sexuality. An invitational approach for couples to better understand church teachings on marriage and human sexuality and embrace Jesus Christ as the center of their relationship.

Program Information

Format: Witness sharing by married couples, engaged couple reflection & dialogue
Length: 1-day, typically on Saturdays with some weeknight alternatives
Location: Hosted by parishes around the diocese
Size: Up to 25 couples

Format: Teaching seminar w/dialogue opportunities for couples
Length: 1-day, typically on Saturdays with some weeknight alternatives
Location: Bishop O'Connor Cntr & regional parishes
Size: Up to 25-30 couples

Team Couple Commitments

Facilitators: Couples married 5 years or more
Annual Commitment: Lead 2-3 seminars and attend 4-hr enrichment opportunity (20-30 hrs)
Prerequisites:
* Develop two 10-minute presentations on topics through individual training sessions with another married couple.
* Attend one God's Plan session and develop a familiarity of Theology of the Body.
* Fully embrace and promote the doctrinal and moral teachings of the Catholic Church, in particular the Church teachings on marriage, human sexuality and contraception.

Facilitators: Individuals/couples married +3 years
Annual Commitment: Lead 2-3 seminars and attend 4-hr enrichment opportunity (20-30 hrs)
Prerequisites:
* Complete God's Plan Facilitator Training and 2-3 practice meetings with trained facilitator
* A working knowledge of Theology of the Body and ability to teach, dialogue and answer questions (not required before training -not expected to be an expert!)
* Fully embrace and promote the doctrinal and moral teachings of the Catholic Church, in particular the Church teachings on marriage, human sexuality and contraception.

Team Couple Training

Two new couples are trained at the same time by a seasoned team couple. The training couples prepare two presentations over a 1-2 month training period that can be scheduled according to their personal, work and family needs. A training manual is provided that describes the procedures for the day and guidance on how to write the presentations.

Training begins with Friday night through Saturday session that covers basics of marriage preparation in the diocese and program methodology. Trainees then meet according to their own schedules with an existing facilitator couple to practice training methods and prepare for first God's Plan session. The next Facilitator Training is March 27-28, 2009.

Ongoing Program Involvement:

Once training is completed, team couples and facilitators will receive the Marriage Prep schedule with all of the program dates twice a year - in November for the spring session and in June for the fall session. Each team couple/facilitator is asked to indicate the dates they would be available to host (usually 2-3 dates in the spring session and 1-2 dates in the fall). Once all requests have been received by the office and all of the schedule dates have been assigned to team couples, each couple receives a confirmation of the dates, taken from the choices they have submitted.

Communication:

Ongoing communication of program needs occurs via mail, e-mail and phone calls.

Enrichment:

Occasional enrichment opportunities for team couples are offered by the Marriage Preparation program. These are usually one day or half-day events scheduled about once a year and are provided for the couple's personal growth and are beneficial, but optional, to a team couple's continued involvement in the program. The Marriage Preparation Program is committed to equipping you with the tools and knowledge needed to effectively communicate God's plan for marriage to those whom you will minister.

We agree to the above commitments of time and effort for the particular Marriage Preparation component in which we will serve. In addition, we fully embrace and intend to promote to the best of our ability the doctrinal and moral teachings of the Catholic Church, in particular the Church teachings on marriage, human sexuality and contraception.

Husband

Date

Wife

Date

*Thank you for your commitment
to strengthen marriage in the Diocese of Madison!*