

Training Process for New Facilitators of the Marriage Preparation Program

The following is the standard training process for couples wanting to serve as facilitators for the diocesan Marriage Preparation Program.

Real Life, Real Love

Couples that lead the Real Life, Real Love program are called team couples. Team training typically takes place with one experienced (training) couple and two (new) couples-in-training. The three couples will meet three to four times over a 3 month period and meet at locations and scheduled times determined by the three couples to be best for them, according to their personal, work and family schedules.

During the first meeting/session the training couple will explain the procedures and outline how to prepare the presentations that are given by the team couples on the Marriage Preparation day. Over the next three sessions, each couple-in-training prepares one brief introductory presentation and two witness presentations – (topics to choose from include self-awareness, communication, intimacy, and marriage as a faith journey) of 10-15 minutes in length. The presentations come primarily from their own experience of married life. A complete Training Manual is given to each couple-in-training. It describes the procedures of the Marriage Prep day and includes guidelines for writing presentations, reflection questions and suggestions to help with the writing process.

During the weeks between the training sessions/meetings, the couples-in-training spend time to reflect on, talk about and write out their presentations. At each training session following the first meeting, each couple-in-training presents the talk/presentation they have prepared to the training couple and the other couple-in-training in order to receive critique and feedback.

During the training period, the couples in training may wish to observe a *Real Life, Real Love* Marriage Preparation day. In addition, all couples should attend a God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage session or watch the DVD series.

When training is nearing completion, the new team couples will select their first day to present from the current *Real Life, Real Love* Marriage Preparation schedule.

Training Sequence for the Real Life, Real Love program

- Meeting 1** Introductions, explanation of sharing questions, overview of the Real Live, Real Love day, outline of the agenda and presentations, guidelines on writing and critiquing presentations
- Meeting 2** Each couple present first presentation, offer critique and suggestions
- Meeting 3** Each couple present second presentation, offer critique and suggestions
- Meeting 4** Couples work together on a mock Marriage Prep Day, presenting all four talks and practicing the registration and logistical details of the day.

God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage

Couples that lead the God's Plan program are called facilitators. Team training typically starts with a 2-day Training event offered once or twice a year. Upon completion of the group training, two (new) couples-in-training then meet with one experienced (training) couple. The three couples will meet two to three times over a three month period and meet at locations and times determined by the three couples, according to their personal, work and family schedules. See below for summary of training.

During the first group training, new facilitators are given an overview of the marriage prep program, a discussion of who is the engaged couple today, what the preparation needs are and the overall methodology and content of the God's Plan program. Over the next two-three sessions, each couple-reviews the material in more depth and prepares for their first facilitation. Couples will identify the talks they will facilitate and the manner in which they will do so. A complete Training Manual, program DVD series and additional resources are given to each couple-in-training.

During the weeks between the training meetings, the couple-in-training reviews the video, reflect on them and decides how they will facilitate their talks. At follow-up training sessions, each couple-in-training presents the manner in which they will facilitate a talk and the training couple provides critique and feedback.

During the training period, the couples in training may wish to observe a God's Plan day. When training is nearing completion, the new team couples will select their first day to present from the current Marriage Preparation schedule.

Training Sequence for the God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage Program

- Meeting 1** Group Training held in Madison. Introductions, overview of the marriage preparation program, discussion of the average engaged couples today and their needs, and review of program methodology and content

- Meeting 2** With training couple, review content of talks couple will facilitate; mock presentation of first talk, offer critique and suggestions

- Meeting 3** With training couple, review content of talks couple will facilitate; mock presentation of second talk, offer critique and suggestions

- Meeting 4** Couples work together on a mock Marriage Prep Day, presenting all four talks and practicing the registration and logistical details of the day.