

FALL 2007

CENTER FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

DIOCESE OF JOLIET



Center For Family Ministry
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MASTER'S PROGRAM IN FAMILY MINISTRY

Dominican University in suburban River Forest is now offering an innovative new Master's program in Leadership for Family Ministry and Faith Development. The program requires three 10-day "intensives" on-site over three summers and online learning during two fall and two spring semesters.

The degree is for those involved in or preparing for leadership in family ministry, youth and young adult ministry, care and bereavement ministry, religious education and service agencies.

The program design honors the life commitments of adult learners by creating a community of learners who will support and challenge one another during the academic year. It is co-directed by Kathy Heskin, D.Min. and David Thomas Ph.D., both noted authors and national leaders in family ministry.

Classes include courses in Marriage and Family Spirituality, Family Ministry and Family Systems, Faith Development and the Life Cycle, Family Evangelization and Catechesis, and Religious Education and Family Life. For more information, please access the university website at www.dom.edu and select School for Leadership and Continuing Studies.

HELPING FAMILIES LIVING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND SUICIDE

Karla Smith, daughter of veteran ministry and education professionals Tom and Fran Smith, died by suicide at age 26 in 2003. She had been suffering from bipolar disorder for seven years. In response, Tom and Fran created the Karla Smith Foundation, dedicated to helping the church and society respond in more helpful ways to mental illness and to suicide.

The Smiths welcome families dealing with any kind of mental illness to come to the **St. Charles Pastoral Center** for an evening of solidarity and education on **Tuesday, October 9**. This is not an evening for the persons who are mentally ill themselves, but for those who love them and care for them. Entitled, "Living a Balanced Life," the program will run from **7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

On **Wednesday, October 10**, all priests, deacons, and lay staff members from our diocesan offices, parishes, schools, and other institutions, are invited to the Pastoral Center for a morning session entitled "Erasing the Stigma, Increasing the Help," devoted to exploring ways the diocese and the parishes can respond helpfully to families with mental illness. Particular attention will be given to suicide issues – both suicide prevention and to helping those in the aftermath of suicide. This session runs from **9:30 a.m. to noon**.

Tom Smith is the former Director of Pastoral Services for Diocese of Belleville and the author of five books, including **The Tattered Tapestry**, which tells the story of his family's experience with bipolar disorder and with suicide. Fran Smith is a former teacher, counselor, and principal, now retired. The Smiths, who speak widely on this subject, received the Region VII Family Ministry Award in 2007.

Please pre-register for either program by using the enclosed registration form or by calling the Center for Family Ministry at **815-838-5334**. Those with questions or a desire for more information should ask for Dr. Jim Healy or Desirée Marciani.

VISIT foryourmarriage.org

As part of their multi-year marriage initiative, The United States Council of Catholic Bishops has created a website chock-full of information and support for marriages. The new public service announcements on marriage, created by the bishops, can be viewed online, as well as a wealth of information about marriage preparation, marriage enrichment, and other sources of support for marriage. This national website is also linked to the family life office of every diocese in the country, including the Diocese of Joliet.

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES: REDUCING POVERTY

Most of the work of family ministry lies in helping families grow stronger through improving their internal processes – their communication, their spirituality, their commitment, their ability to resolve conflicts. However, there is another side to strengthening families.

A family struggling against poverty is under tremendous pressure. Not having sufficient money for food and housing, not being able to work when one wants to work, not being able to read in a society that demands literacy - all of these factors contribute greatly to the breakdown of families. The Church tells us that we can't just focus on "feathering the family nest" when we can also do something about the tremendous societal forces battering all families today.

This evening by Dr. Jim Healy will be devoted to looking at how two countries seem to be developing when it comes to family wellness – one America with relatively affluent families with a lowering divorce rate, and another America with families with less education and income where the divorce rate and rate of children born out of wedlock continues to increase.

Our Church teaches that family and social responsibility complement each other when it comes to strengthening the home. Come to hear more about the problem and help discuss the solutions. The evening begins at 7:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 12**, and takes place at **St. Margaret Mary Church, Naperville**. For information, call Tom Cordaro at **630-369-0777**.

OCTOBER 13 IS FOCCUS TRAINING

The FOCCUS Pre-Marital Inventory is part of the marriage preparation process for all engaged couples in the Diocese of Joliet. Priests, deacons, and other parish staff members, as well as parish-approved and trained lay couples, may use FOCCUS with engaged couples.

There will be a special one-day training program for FOCCUS at the St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville on **Saturday, October 13, 2007**. The training, which runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., will cost \$10.00 per person. In addition, those who need FOCCUS materials will be able to purchase the Facilitator Manual for \$45.00 on that day. Pre-registration is required. Please call **815-838-5334** for more information or to register.

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

Catholic Engaged Encounter is designed to help couples prepare for marriage. It is an intensive weekend of work during which each couple is offered the time and opportunity to question, examine, and deepen their relationship with each other and with God. Couples are challenged to explore their relationship in a much deeper, more honest way than they have been before.

Topics covered include self-awareness, human sexuality, communications, decision making, Natural Family Planning, vocation, sacrament, unity and more. Personal reflection and communication are the main focus. Engaged Encounter is approved by the Diocese of Joliet as a marriage preparation program.

Weekends are scheduled on the following dates in 2007:

Sep 14-16 Oct 12-14 Nov 9-11 Dec 7-9

Couples who book ahead should have no problems with registration. However, since the weekends do fill up, interested couples should contact Engaged Encounter as soon as possible.

For reservations or further information call **630-375-7072**, or check the web at www.engagedencounter.org

SPANISH ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

The next Spanish Engaged Encounter will be November 10-11, and will be held at the Saint Charles Pastoral Center. Couples attend on Saturday, beginning at 7:45 a.m., return to their homes Saturday night, and then come back to the Center for the Sunday session, which ends about 4:30 p.m.

All sessions are in Spanish, and the cost is \$65.00. For reservations, or for more information, call the Hispanic Ministry Office at 815-834-4037. These weekends are co-sponsored by the Center for Family Ministry and the Hispanic Ministry Office.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

This weekend experience can help married couples turn a good marriage (or even a ho-hum marriage) into a GREAT marriage!

- Rediscover the **spark** that was there on your wedding day!
- Rediscover the **best friend** you had when you were first married!
- Join the millions of couples worldwide who have learned how to keep their marriage **vibrant and alive!**

2007 Weekend Dates Sept. 21-23 Oct. 26-28 Nov. 30 - Dec. 2

For more information or to register, please call **630-577-0778** or on the web at www.wvme.org

SPANISH MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Worldwide Marriage Encounter also presents weekends in Spanish. Weekends are scheduled for the following dates in 2007:

Sept 21-23	Rockford	630-690-2094
Oct 5-7	Chicago	708-222-6784
Nov 9-11	Rockford	630-690-2094
Nov 30-Dec 2	Joliet	630-480-0121

PRESENTATION ON MARRIAGE

All are invited to hear Dr. Jim Healy speak on **How to Be Married and Stay Engaged** at St. Ann Parish, Oswego on **Wednesday, November 7**, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This presentation is appropriate for any married couple. Please call Gail at **630-554-8848** for more information.

CHILI COOK-OFF FOR SINGLES

This Cook-Off, co-sponsored by St. Joseph (Downers Grove) Singles and St. Isidore Parish will take place on Saturday, September 8, at St. Isidore in Bloomingdale. All singles, whether they have never married or are divorced or widowed are invited to bring their best fiery chili and recipe. Those without a recipe may bring a side dish along with their best judging skills. Add music, games, laughter, and camaraderie to create a blue ribbon recipe for a fun-filled evening. A 5 p.m. Mass precedes the event which starts at 6 p.m.

The \$10 fee covers food, refreshment and entertainment. RSVP: Ané Berg (630-295-6890) or www.stisidoreparish.org

GREAT DATES!

The Great Dates Program was introduced into our diocese two years ago. Since then, a number of parishes have offered the year-long program, with excellent results. In these parishes, participating couples commit to specific date nights, which begin at the parish with a brief DVD presentation which highlights some aspect of successful marriages. Then each couple leaves for their own dates, where they discuss what they learned in the presentation.

There will be an orientation to the basic Great Dates program on Wednesday, **October 17**, at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Charles Pastoral Center. Also available for viewing that night will be two parallel programs:

- 1) The Spanish version of Great Dates: **10 Citos Extraordinarias**
- 2) The African-American version: **10 Great Dates for Black Couples**

Advance registration is required. Those who cannot make the meeting are encouraged to call Dr. Jim Healy at **815-838-5334** for more information.

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"We've Done 'Great Dates.' What Do We Do Next?"

Perhaps your parish has already completed Great Dates and you're looking for something more. If so, Dr. Jim Healy is available to meet with interested couples in the parish to explore other strategies, programs, and approaches for strengthening marriage. Please call him at **815-838-5334**.

FAMILY RETREAT IN NOVEMBER

Madonna and Jim Healy will offer a family retreat on Sunday afternoon, **November 18** at Notre Dame Parish in Clarendon Hills. The retreat is appropriate for families of any structure – intact biological families, single parent families, stepfamilies – as long as there are children involved. The retreat is a very active one that includes every age group, and each family stays together during almost all of the exercises and activities.

Although this retreat is only for the families of Notre Dame Parish, observers who wish to replicate this retreat elsewhere may be invited to observe. Please contact Jim Healy at **815-838-5334** for more information.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASSES

NFP classes teaching the Billings Ovulation Method are held at St. Charles Pastoral Center on the first Tuesday of the month, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Parishes may also arrange for classes on site. Contact Karen Buchert, Diocesan Coordinator of Natural Family Planning at kasbuchert@comcast.net or by phone 630-551-1712 for more information about this class or about natural family planning in the diocese.

Also, instructor Lupita Sorich teaches the Billings Ovulation Method on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Provena St. Mary Hospital in Kankakee. In addition, Spanish NFP classes are given by appointment. Class fee is \$35 per couple. For more information or to register, call Lupita Sorich at 815-304-5879.

TREE OF LIGHT INFANT MEMORIAL MASS Sunday – November 4, 2007

All families and individuals are welcome to attend this Mass in remembrance of babies who have been lost through miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, other pregnancy losses or early childhood death. A special outdoor tree-lighting ceremony for family members will take place to commemorate these babies. The Mass will begin at **3:00 p.m., Sunday, November 4, 2007** at St. Charles Pastoral Center. Family members may wish to arrive at 2:30 to sign in and to gather in the chapel. Friends and all family members are invited. A reception with light refreshments will be served immediately following. **Elizabeth Ministry** ministers will assist in hosting the event, which is sponsored by The Center for Family Ministry. Please call **815-838-5334** to indicate the number of those planning to attend. If you are not able to attend and would like your baby remembered, please call us.

ELIZABETH MINISTRY PREPARATION Saturday, October 20, 2007 - 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Ministry is a like-to-like outreach to women during the special time of motherhood. Situations a parish Elizabeth minister responds to include pregnancy, miscarriage, nursing questions, stillbirth, difficulty conceiving, infertility, adoption issues, birth defects, etc. This beautiful ministry follows the scriptural example of the Visitation by bringing women together who share similar stories. Visits to affirm, support, encourage, and to assist women in these situations take place in the home, hospital, or church setting. An Elizabeth minister represents a caring church body by providing the intimacy, support, and a connected community not typically found in today's mobile society.

This preparation workshop takes place at St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville and is for new and existing Elizabeth Ministers who have not had the benefit of a training day. Check in begins at 8:30 a.m. The \$20 fee includes continental breakfast, and lunch. Kindly send registrations and direct questions to The Center for Family Ministry **815-838-5334**.

JOYFUL AGAIN!

JOYFUL AGAIN! is a two-day program for widows and widowers who want to resolve the grief they feel inside and begin to live again after the death of their spouse. The weekend employs a series of video presentations, followed by facilitated small group discussion and private reflection time. Through this process, individuals gain new insights and receive encouragement and support. Trained facilitators, who have been widowed themselves help with the weekend and the discussions.

The next weekend at the St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville will be on November 17/18. The \$75.00 cost includes all meals and materials. Persons attending may stay overnight at the pastoral center for an additional fee of \$30, or may go home and return again for the second day.

To register please contact Charlotte Hrubec at **708-354-7211**.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

This retreat is for reconciliation and healing for post abortive men and women, sponsored by the Joliet Diocesan Life Office. It is scheduled for **September 21-23, 2007** at St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville. Confidentiality and privacy will be strictly observed. To learn more about a **Rachel's Vineyard Retreat** or to register, contact Kay Corcoran **815-838-7171**. For more information and a list of retreats in other locations, see: www.rachelsvineyard.org or call the toll free national hotline 1-877-HOPE-4ME.

MORNING PRESENTATIONS ON GRIEF

All are invited to Notre Dame Catholic Church in Clarendon Hills this fall to attend a series of presentations on grief. On **Nov. 8**, the topic is Understanding Grief, on **Nov. 15** - The Spirituality of Grief, and on **Nov. 29** - Loss and Grief during the Holidays.

The one-hour presentations will begin after the 8:45 a.m. Mass, and will be offered by Barbara Jarvis Pauls, D.Min., Pastoral Associate at Notre Dame Parish. There is no charge. Barb, a widow for eight years before she remarried, has done extensive work as a grief counselor and educator. For more information, please call her at **630-654-3365 ext 244**.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP FACILITATOR TRAINING

Developing good facilitating skills is a process that takes time and practice. On **October 6th**, The Center for Family Ministry is sponsoring a facilitator training for church-sponsored divorce, bereavement, and other hurting/healing support groups. Desirée Marciani, associate director of The Center for Family Ministry who works with the hurting/healing ministries, and her husband, Tom, who has 12 years of divorce ministry and bereavement experience, will lead this training at St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville.

The training is for those who are new facilitators of self-help small group sharing sessions as well as those who wish to brush-up on their facilitating skills. Agenda items include the role of the facilitator, communication, listening skills, support group ground rules, dealing with challenging situations and practice. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Training starts at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 3:30 p.m. Please register by **September 24th**. The \$20 fee covers continental breakfast, lunch, and a student manual. For information call **815-838-5334**.

ANNULMENT PROCESS DAY Saturday, November 10, 2007

Father Joseph Tapella, the Judicial Vicar of the Joliet Diocesan Tribunal, will conduct an annulment information seminar, on **Saturday, November 10, 2007**, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville. People interested in petitioning for annulment, those already in the process, and those who are just curious about the process are welcome to attend. The meaning of the word "annulment," church status, myths, misunderstandings, Joliet Diocesan annulment paperwork, and other concerns or questions will be addressed. **Kindly pre-register by November 2nd**. A \$25.00 fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, and handouts. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. For information and to register, please call The Center for Family Ministry at **815-838-5334**.

MINISTERING TO STEPFAMILIES

Stepfamilies are becoming more prevalent in our society and in our church. They are more complex and have a higher risk factor for divorce than first families. The Center for Family Ministry has several excellent resources designed to help stepfamilies succeed at the challenging task of forming a healthy stepfamily.

1) **Active Parenting for Stepfamilies**. This six session program includes DVD and power point presentations, parent guide/workbooks, a detailed instructor's manual, and publicity aids. The program, authored by Michael H. Popkin, PhD and Elizabeth Einstein, MA, LMFT, has been released this year from Active Family Publishing, 2007.

2) The **Smart Steps** program, published by the Stepfamily Association of America, is for **both the adults and the children** who make up a stepfamily. Children and adults simultaneously attend the six sessions, which employ power point presentations, VHS videos, scenes from movies such as "Stepmom" and handouts.

3) **Strengthening Stepfamilies**, published by American Guideline Service, is authored by Elizabeth Einstein and Linda Albert. The program kit comes with participant handbooks, "encouragement packet," three audiocassettes, and other handouts and publicity aids.

Any parish interested in reviewing or starting a program for stepfamilies may arrange with The Center for Family Ministry to browse these and other resources. Peer support group facilitator training is also available to those who want to facilitate a program for stepfamilies.

RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND

This weekend experience is for married couples who are experiencing coldness, conflict, or communication difficulty and believe their marriage may be in serious trouble.

The program consists of a weekend experience with six follow-up meetings. The main emphasis of the program is to help couples to learn to communicate once again. They gain awareness of themselves as persons and of their relationship in a new and positive way.

For more information, or to register, please call **708-802-1830**, or check the web at www.retrouvaille.org. The next weekend in the Diocese of Joliet is scheduled for **October 12-14, 2007** at the St. Charles Pastoral Center, in Romeoville. Another is scheduled for November 30-December 2 in the Rockford Diocese.

RAINBOWS® TRAINING

Divorce, death, and other life-altering crises are devastating experiences and often put family members at risk for a multitude of short and long-term negative effects. However, research findings also indicate that with proper intervention, families adjust to the loss and recover well. The RAINBOWS® program continues to offer healing to families experiencing these losses.



RAINBOWS® is a program which provides support for children and adolescents who are grieving a loss from a life altering crisis such as death or divorce. RAINBOWS® enables those grieving to share their feelings in an accepting, supportive, confidential small group environment facilitated by trained, caring and compassionate adults. Program sites may send their volunteers to the following training sessions at the St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville. Pre-registration is required. The cost for new coordinator training is \$35.00. New facilitator training is \$55.00, and includes lunch. Please call **815-838-5334** to register.

**NEW COORDINATOR TRAINING: Saturday, September 15, 2007
- 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon**

**NEW FACILITATOR TRAINING: Saturday, September 22, 2007
- 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

If your parish or school does not have a RAINBOWS® program, or any other means of support for children and families undergoing this painful transition, please encourage your pastor or principal to consider RAINBOWS®! **For parishes within the Diocese of Joliet, RAINBOWS is available at cost and scholarships are available.** Call Desirée Marciani (**815-838-5334**) for site start-up information.

Please note the January 08 training dates: New Coordinator Training - Saturday, January 12, 2008, New Facilitator Training - Saturday, January 19, 2008.

SUNBEAMS GROUPS HELP LITTLE HEARTS HEAL

The original RAINBOWS® program was designed for elementary school children, and it has been extremely successful in responding to that age group. SunBeams is an additional program designed by the same organization to help pre-schoolers deal with painful family transitions, especially divorce and death.

The children meet in small groups led by a trained support group facilitator. This program incorporates age appropriate activities using puppets, bubbles, puzzles, music, games, and story books to help the children identify and express their feelings. Each child names their own special SunBeams bear which they carry to each meeting in their SunBeams tote bag. Parents are invited to attend a separate orientation meeting with their child before their child begins the 12 weekly sessions. At this orientation meeting the parent and child create a puppet which is used by the child throughout the program. Parents receive a parent's guide with suggested related activities to complete at home with their child.

Existing RAINBOWS® sites can add one or multiple SunBeams groups. New facilitators are required to attend the regular RAINBOWS® facilitator training. To start a new SunBeams site, add the SunBeams program to an existing RAINBOWS® site, or for information, call the diocesan RAINBOWS® registered director, Desirée Marciani, at **815-838-5334**.

Diocese of Joliet

The Center for Family Ministry

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