

WINTER/SPRING 2009

CENTER FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

DIOCESE OF JOLIET



Center For Family Ministry

815-838-5334

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ANNUAL FAMILY MINISTRY CONFERENCE TO PUSH MARRIAGE INITIATIVE

"Becoming a Marriage Building Church: Implementing the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Initiative on Marriage" is the theme of this year's conference of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers. It will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota on the campus of the University of St. Thomas from June 25-28. Both the keynoters and the workshops will be aimed at helping every part of the Church respond to the call for more marriage ministry at the parish and the diocesan level. For more information, please go to NACFLM.org or contact the Center for Family Ministry.

"VOCATIONS IN THE FAMILY" on February 24

Families are invited to travel to St. Jude Parish in New Lenox on Tuesday evening, February 24, to experience the first effort by the Joliet Area Vocations Association to offer an event where every member of the family, regardless of age, can be enriched by a reflection on vocations. There will be presentations for every age level, including a presentation on marriage for adults. The event runs from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Pre-registration is not necessary, but those with questions should call Nora Labanauskas in the Vocations Office at 815-834-4004.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR THE DIVORCED AND WIDOWED

"When Everything Changes and Nothing Fits"

St. Charles Pastoral Center, Romeoville

All those who have lost a spouse, either through death or divorce, as well as those who care for them, are warmly invited to join us on Saturday, March 28, for a day with Fr. Richard Gilbert.

Fr. Gilbert is an Anglican priest and author who has devoted his life to helping people through the stages of grief. As the Executive Director of the World Pastoral Care Center, Fr. Gilbert has spoken throughout the United States and internationally. He has a Ph.D. in Pastoral Psychology, is a Fellow of The American Association of Grief Counselors, and is an advisor to the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved. Fr. Gilbert's background in spirituality, grief counseling, and even his work with people suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, will all be employed in his presentations.



On March 28, Fr. Gilbert will help us come to a greater awareness that the death of a relationship is the death of a dream. Our "sense of self" is deeply shaken, but, with the help of the God who loves us forever, we can be transformed through loss to become a new creation. No matter where you are in becoming this new creation, this day will help you appreciate and acknowledge the gains you have made and will offer wisdom and a new direction.

The day starts with a 9:00 a.m. check-in and concludes with a 4:00 p.m. liturgy, celebrated by Bishop Sartain, that satisfies the Sunday obligation. The \$35 fee includes lunch and all conference materials. Additional resources and materials for the widowed and for the divorced will be available at the conference as well. Please register by calling the Center at 815-838-5334 or by using the enclosed registration form. For additional information, ask for Desirée Marciani.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOR COUPLES ON MARCH 21

Open Hearts: Strengthening Your Marriage through Communication and Forgiveness

Dr. Everett Worthington, Jr., will address couples at a special conference on March 21 from 9 a.m. to noon. It will be held at the new Wentz Concert Hall at North Central College, 171 E. Chicago Avenue in Naperville.

Dr. Worthington is an internationally recognized authority and researcher on marriage and the psychology of forgiveness. A speaker in wide demand, he is the author of numerous publications and the author of a dozen books, including the book, *Forgiving and Reconciling: Bridges to Wholeness And Hope*. He is the founding editor of *Marriage and Family: A Christian Journal*, and is credited with helping to make forgiveness a legitimate and empirically-based part of marriage counseling.



The event is sponsored by the Inter-Parish Marriage Enrichment Team (IMET), a consortium of Catholic parishes in DuPage County who have banded together to offer high quality marriage enrichment opportunities for the community. Last year's conference with Dr. Brent Atkinson attracted over 200 couples to the day.

Couples may register for this event by sending their name, home address, and email address to Cathy and Phil Gorski at 633 Maywood Lane, Lisle, Illinois 60532, with a check for \$30 payable to IMET.

ANNULMENT FIELD ADVOCATE TRAINING Saturday, June 6

Quite often, a person investigating the possibility of an annulment has a difficult time beginning the process. Those who help the person at a parish normally become the field advocate for that person's annulment investigation. This training, co-sponsored by the Center for Family Ministry and the Joliet Diocesan Tribunal, will provide potential field advocates and existing field advocates with pertinent information about the annulment process. It will also offer practical ways for the field advocate to assist, coach, and be spiritually supportive with the annulment petitioners.

Those who come to this training are selected and sent by their parish staff and, in turn, will serve their own parish in this ministry. The training takes place at St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville, from 8:30 a.m. (check-in begins at 8:00) to 3:00 p.m. and will be conducted by Father Joseph Tapella and Desirée Marciani. The \$15 fee covers continental breakfast, lunch and materials.

Although the training is not mandatory, it will be very helpful, both for existing field advocates, and those who want to begin to reach out to annulment petitioners. For registration information, concerns, or questions, call Desirée Marciani at 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 March 7 & 8. For more information, to register, or for other dates and locations, please contact Charlotte Hrubec at 708-354-7211 or check the web at www.joyfulagain.org

RAINBOWS® TRAINING

Divorce, death, and other life-altering crises are devastating experiences and often put family member 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, January 17, 2009- 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon
NEW FACILITATOR TRAINING:
Saturday, January 24, 2009- 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 Fall 2009 training dates:
New Coordinator Training - Saturday, September 12, 2009
New Facilitator Training - Saturday September 19, 2009.*



SUPPORT FOR ANNULMENT PETITIONERS

Working on annulment papers alone without support can be emotionally painful, overwhelming, and frustrating. Papers often get shoved into a desk drawer and more often than not are never worked on again. In an effort to help petitioners complete the process, the Center for Family Ministry, in collaboration with the Joliet Diocesan Tribunal, is once again offering a Day of Support and Reflection for Annulment Petitioners on Saturday, February 21, 2009 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the St. Charles Pastoral Center.

This workshop is designed for divorced persons who have petitioned the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal to begin the annulment process, have submitted basic data for introduction of their case, but have not yet completed the long questionnaire. Catholics and non-Catholics are welcome to attend, whether remarried or not.

The day will include time for prayer, time for questions, and input regarding annulments and the relational issues dealt with in the questionnaire. Participants will begin or continue filling out the questionnaire within a supportive environment. A team of pastoral ministers will be available for private consultation.

Lunch and materials are included in the \$25 fee. To register, please call 815-838-5334. For more information ask for Desirée Marciani.

RETROUVILLE WEEKEND FOR TROUBLED MARRIAGES

Without attention and care, marriages wither. Couples slowly drift apart or are torn apart by terrible words and actions. Retrouvaille is helping couples put the pieces back together and rebuild loving relationships. Retrouvaille, pronounced "re tro vi", is a French word meaning "rediscovery."

Retrouvaille begins with a weekend experience, led by trained married couples and a priest. Through presentations, private reflection, and couple communication, couples who are seriously troubled and who may be contemplating divorce are invited to reflect on their marriage and what they need to do to save it. For more information, or to register, please call the number listed below, or check the web at www.retrouvaille.org.

The next weekend in the Diocese of Joliet is scheduled for May 1-3, 2009 at the St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville. Other upcoming weekend dates are: February 13-15, 2009 in Chicago; and October 23-25, 2009 in Romeoville. For more information, or to register, please call 708-802-1830.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASSES

The Joliet Diocesan Natural Family Planning Program teaches the Billings Ovulation Method (BOMA) of NFP. These classes are offered in the following locations for a fee of \$35 per couple:

➤ At St. Charles Pastoral Center, new classes are held on the first Tuesday of each month, from 7 to 9 p.m. The follow-up class takes place the third Tuesday of each month. 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 to register, or about natural family planning in the diocese.

➤ At Provena St. Mary Hospital in Kankakee, classes are held on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Classes are also offered in Spanish by appointment. Contact diocesan instructor, Lupita Sorich to register or for more information at 815-932-9275.

Independent NFP providers also offering instruction within the Joliet Diocese:

CREIGHTON FERTILITYCARE Couple to Couple League (CCL) NFPLI, Inc.
www.fertilitycare.org <http://ccli.org> 888-485-6635

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

...is designed to help married couples communicate more intimately with one another in order to deepen and enrich their relationship. The weekend is free from the everyday routines, distractions, and tensions. An atmosphere is created where the couple can concentrate exclusively on each other in a private, confidential environment. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will allow you the opportunity to

- Take a new look at your marriage, priorities and lifestyle
- Learn simple, effective communication techniques
- Enhance the love that you share
- Rediscover your hopes and dreams.

For more information or to register, please call 630-577-0778 or check the web @ www.wwme.org Upcoming dates for 2009:

Feb 20-22, Feb 27-Mar 1, Apr 17-19, May 1-3, June 5-7,
Sept 11-13, Oct 23-25, Nov 6-8, Dec 4-6

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY DINNER DANCE

All couples are invited to an evening of dinner and dancing on **Saturday, February 14** at the Seven Bridges Golf Club, One Mulligan Drive, Woodridge (Route 53 and 63rd Street). The evening will last from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., and the cost per couple is \$65. Interested couples should mail their check, payable to Worldwide Marriage Encounter or WWME, to Joe & Jen Bugajsky, 2540 Brunswick Circle, Woodridge, IL 60517. Those with questions can call the Bugajskys at **630-493-4228**. Couples should include their name, phone number, and email or home address. This event is sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

PEER SUPPORT GROUP FACILITATOR TRAINING

This training will take place **August 29 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.** at the St. Charles Pastoral Center in Romeoville. Please call Desirée Marciani at 815-838-5334 with any questions. More information will follow in our August, 2009 newsletter.

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, March 7, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The \$10.00 fee for the day includes lunch. Those who need a FOCCUS Facilitator Manual will be able to purchase one for \$45.00 at the training. Pre-registration is required. Please call 815-838-5334 for more information or to register.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

This retreat is for reconciliation and healing for post-abortive men and women, sponsored by the Joliet Diocesan Life Office. The next weekend date scheduled is March 20-22, 2009 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 1-866-99-4-GIVE. 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.

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.

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

The weekend dates for 2009 are: Jan 9-11, Feb 13-15, Mar 13-15, Apr 17-19
Apr 24-26, May 15-17, Sept 11-13, Oct 16-18, Nov 13-15, Dec 11-13

SPANISH ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

The next Spanish Engaged Encounter will be April 25-26, 2009, 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. Additional sessions in 2009 will be July 25-26 and November 21-22.

All sessions are in Spanish, and the cost is \$100.00. 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.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

September 27, 2009

The Thirty-first Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass is scheduled for Sunday, September 27, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. This is a later date than usual, so please mark your calendars! The celebrant will be Bishop J. Peter Sartain. Many couples celebrating their 50th anniversary look forward to this special Mass. More specific information will be forthcoming.

WHAT COMES AFTER THE "10 GREAT DATES" PROGRAM?

The program, **10 Great Dates to Energize Your Marriage**, has been very successful in the Joliet Diocese, but the question has frequently come up, "What do we do next?" While there are a number of possibilities, parishes are invited to take part in a pilot program in the winter/spring of 2009. This parish-based program requires a couple to commit to four "dates," normally a month apart. The couples gather for a very short DVD presentation at the parish, and then depart for the "evening out" of their choice. Each couple also receives supportive materials. Those interested in piloting this program should contact Dr. Jim Healy at 815-838-5334.

"CARE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE"

A 3-part marriage enrichment program for all married couples will be held on Tuesday evenings, Feb 3, 10, and 17 from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Notre Dame Catholic Church, 64 Norfolk, in Clarendon Hills.

Honoring the vows of marriage is a life long challenge and process that takes continuous care and commitment. In this series we will explore marriage from a Catholic perspective with an emphasis on sacramental theological concepts. The best selling book, *Fighting For Your Marriage*, will serve as a guide to our discussions. The program will include professional input, private couple time, group discussion, prayer and fun!

Dr. Barb Jarvis Pauls, Pastoral Associate at Notre Dame Parish, and former Associate Director for the Diocesan Center for Family Ministry, will present this series. Barb holds a Doctorate of Ministry in Pastoral Counseling, a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology and is a licensed clinical professional counselor. She has been a leader in marriage ministry programs for over twenty-five years. Couple attendance is preferable, but individuals are welcome. There is a \$10 per night donation. To make a reservation call: 630-654-3365, ext. 24.

"MAKING HAPPINESS A HABIT"
Presentation for Couples

Happiness in marriage comes, not so much from the "once in a lifetime" events, wonderful as they are, but by the things we do over and over again. These "habits of the heart" are firmly grounded in our Catholic faith, but social science research has also suggested their importance for human happiness.

Dr. Jim Healy, director of the Center for Family Ministry will speak on "Making Happiness a Habit" at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Aurora on Saturday, January 31, at 7:00 pm. The presentation will be preceded by a buffet dinner, for which there will be a small charge. Those interested should call Jolene LeRoy at the parish at 630-851-3444. Pre-registration is required for this event.

FIREPROOF: THE MOVIE

Fireproof is a Christian, commercially released film about growth in marriage which comes out on DVD on January 27. It deals convincingly and entertainingly, within a Christian context, with the struggles of a marriage. Viewing it, perhaps with discussion afterward, would be an effective evening for parishes looking for a one night marriage enrichment experience. The film can be ordered on the website: www.fireproofthemovie.com or by calling 800-991-6011.

Sacred Heart Parish in Joliet will be showing Fireproof on a Saturday evening in March. Plans include popcorn during the show and discussion afterwards. Please contact Harry Leddy at 815-744-2443 for more information.

BLESSING AND BEING BLESSED BY OUR CHILDREN
On February 10 and May 14

In biblical times, fathers bestowed a special blessing on their first-born sons. These days, we want both mothers and fathers to bless all of their children. But what does it mean to "bless" our children? Building on the work of John Trent and Gary Smalley, Dr. Jim Healy, Director of the Center for Family Ministry, will demonstrate the specific elements of a parent's blessing as it is described in Scripture, and will demonstrate why it has such a spiritually and psychologically profound effect on our children. It will become obvious that every parent - and every adult - has the power to bless the children they love, no matter how old the children are. The presentation will be held at St. Mary of Gostyn Parish in Downers Grove on Tuesday, February 10, and will run from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Ann Forde Murray at 630-217-0115.

A shorter version of the same presentation will be offered just for mothers of children from newborn through school age at the **May 14** meeting of the Me-God-Mothering (MGM) Mom's Group at St. Raphael's Parish in Naperville. Please call Elizabeth Konopka at 630-369-5037 for more information.

**FAMILY MINISTRY CONFERENCE IN ROCKFORD
TO INCLUDE FOCUS ON YOUNG ADULTS**

The regional gathering of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers will take place from April 21-23 at the Bishop Lane Retreat Center in Rockford. On Wednesday, April 22, Susan Vogt, speaker and writer, will address the group on "Helping Young Adults Leave Home without Losing the Faith." Also to be addressed will be the need to mentor the next generation of family ministers. Those involved in family ministry or ministry to young adults who would like to attend the Wednesday session should call Dr. Healy at the Center.

Diocese of Joliet

The Center for Family Ministry

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Upcoming Events – Register Below

JANUARY

9-11 Catholic Engaged Encounter
17 Rainbows Coordinator Training
24 Rainbows Facilitator Training
31 Making Happiness a Habit, Aurora

FEBRUARY

3 Care For Your Marriage, Clar. Hills
10 Care For Your Marriage, Clar. Hills
10 Blessing Program, Downers Grove
13-15 Retrouvaille, Chicago
13-15 Catholic Engaged Encounter
14 World Marriage Day Dinner Dance
17 Care For Your Marriage, Clar. Hills
20-22 Worldwide Marriage Encounter
21 Annulment Support Day
24 Vocations in the Family, New Lenox
27-3/1 Worldwide Marriage Encounter

MARCH

7 FOCCUS Training
7-8 Joyful Again!
13-15 Catholic Engaged Encounter
20-22 Rachel's Vineyard
21 Marriage Conference, Naperville
28 Divorced/Widowed Conference

APRIL

17-19 Catholic Engaged Encounter
17-19 Worldwide Marriage Encounter
21-23 NACFLM Region VII conf., Rockford
24-26 Catholic Engaged Encounter
25-26 Spanish Engaged Encounter

MAY

1-3 Retrouvaille, Romeoville
1-3 Worldwide Marriage Encounter
14 Blessing Program, Naperville
15-17 Catholic Engaged Encounter

JUNE

5-7 Worldwide Marriage Encounter
6 Annulment Field Advocate Training
25-28 NACFLM conference, St. Paul, MN

JULY

25-26 Spanish Engaged Encounter

AUGUST

29 Peer Support Group Facilitator Trng

SEPTEMBER

11-13 Catholic Engaged Encounter
11-13 Worldwide Marriage Encounter
12 Rainbows Coordinator Training
19 Rainbows Facilitator Training
27 Wedding Anniversary Mass

The Center For Family Ministry

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REGISTRATION FORM

We have included this generic registration form for your convenience. Please duplicate it if you wish to register for one of our programs.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PARISH _____ DAYTIME PHONE _____

TITLE OF WORKSHOP _____

DATE OF WORKSHOP _____ FEE ENCLOSED _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____