

*God's Plan
for a Joy-Filled Marriage* 
Registration Form
(Please Print Clearly)

Bride: _____

Preferred name for badge: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Age: ____ Previous Marriage: __yes__ __no__

Religion: _____

Parish/Church: _____

Groom: _____

Preferred name for badge: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Age: ____ Previous Marriage: __yes__ __no__

Religion: _____

Parish/Church: _____

Date of Wedding: _____

Parish/Church: _____

Email: _____

Desired Seminar:

Place: _____

Date: _____

Send this form & \$60 check payable to Diocese of Harrisburg to address on front of brochure.

Registration Deadline: 4 weeks before each program.

Marriage Preparation 2010



Diocese of Harrisburg

**Family Ministries Office
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111-
3710**

(717) 657-4804 ext. 317

familyministries@hbgdiocese.org

Congratulations on your engagement! This is an exciting and busy time for both of you as you plan your wedding day and make decisions about your life together. For many years, the Catholic Church has recognized the need for marriage preparation that prepares couples for a lifetime and not just for a day. The Church also has wonderful teachings on marriage that have stood the test of time and will help you both to love each other unconditionally as Christ loves us. We know that as two individuals you bring to your relationship two different views of marriage and it is important for you both to first identify your differences and then discuss how you will combine them into your life together.

The First Step

The FOCCUS Instrument is an assessment tool taken by both partners. Its primary purpose is to allow you as a couple to discern and discuss your mutual beliefs, views, hopes and dreams about your future. The priest or deacon may use this as a discussion starter when he meets with you to discuss your marriage. Couples prepared by a mentor couple in their parish will also use this instrument as a basis for their conversations.

The Second Step

In most parishes you have two choices for marriage preparation:

The Parish-Based Mentoring Process

AND

God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage

OR

An Engaged Encounter Weekend

Both the mentoring process and Engaged Encounter give you the opportunity to hear

from experienced married couples and then discuss and plan your own journey through married life.

The mentoring process begins early in the 9-12 month preparation time when you are assigned a trained couple to assist you. You will begin the mentoring process by completing the FOCCUS inventory online and discussing it with your mentor couple. In the remaining three sessions, each lasting about two hours, you will continue to discuss topics that have surfaced from the FOCCUS, as well as other topics related to communications, spirituality, sexuality and finance.

Couples prepared in this way also attend *God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage*. This one-day program consists of six presentations on God's Plan for Marriage, The Basics of Marriage in the Church, Marital Sexuality, and Natural Family Planning. Dates, times and locations for *God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage* can be found in this brochure. Additional information on the program itself can be found via a link on the family ministries website at www.hbgdiocese.org (click Marriage and Family).

Couples prepared by the **Engaged Encounter** process take a whole weekend to focus on their future, listening to talks from couples who have been trained to present on the different topics, and then sharing their thoughts first through writing to each other and then sharing privately. Since this weekend includes all of the presentations included in *God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage*, attendance at that program is not necessary. Please note: You must be at least 18 to attend Engaged Encounter.

After you complete these programs, return to your priest or deacon and continue the next step in the process with him.

God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage

Dates & Locations For 2010

All Saturday programs take place from 8:45 am to 3:30 pm.

Delone Catholic High School, McSherrystown

2/20, 6/12, 10/16

St. Patrick, Carlisle

4/17, 8/7, 11/13

Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg

1/23, 2/20, 4/17, 5/15, 6/26, 7/24, 8/7, 10/16, 11/13, 12/11

3/10 & 3/17 Wednesday evenings 6-9 pm

9/7 & 9/14 Tuesday evenings 6-9 pm

Corpus Christi, Chambersburg

6/26, 10/16

St. Leo the Great, Lancaster

1/9, 3/13, 9/18

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Cornwall

2/6

Saint Benedict the Abbot, Lebanon

6/26

Assumption B.V.M., Lebanon

9/11

St Pius X, Selinsgrove

2/20

St Joseph, Danville

6/12, 10/16

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Mount Carmel

3/13

Our Lady of Hope, Coal Township

9/25

Saint Joseph, York

3/6, 6/5

Saint Patrick, York

8/7, 11/6

Registration Deadline: 4 weeks before each program.



What Is An Engaged Encounter?

It is a weekend away with other engaged couples with plenty of time alone together to plan for marriage. The weekend is designed to give couples who are planning marriage the opportunity to communicate – individually, honestly, and intensively – about their prospective lives together: their strengths and weaknesses, desires, ambitions, goals; their attitudes about money, sex, children, family; their roles in the Church and in society – in face-to-face discussion.

What Happens At An Engaged Encounter?

The weekend begins Friday evening and ends late Sunday afternoon. A trained team of married couples and a priest present talks to the group of engaged couples on various important aspects of married life.

After each presentation, the engaged couples are given the time to write their thoughts and feelings, and then discuss them privately with their partners. This is an intense but worthwhile weekend that allows the couple to concentrate on building their relationship with each other and God. Although there are other couples on the weekend, the Engaged Encounter is designed to be a *couple experience*.

Who is the Weekend For?

It is for couples preparing for marriage through the Catholic Church. Although Engaged Encounter is Catholic in origin and orientation, interfaith couples are also welcome and will

find the weekend helpful for giving their marriage the best possible beginning. Couples from other faith traditions are welcome to attend on a space-available basis.

Where and When?

January 15-17 February 5-7

March 19-21 April 16-18

April 30-May 2 August 20-22

September 17-19 November 5-7

Engaged Encounter weekends are held at Hampton Inn in Mechanicsburg, PA. Weekends begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday and conclude at 4:00 p.m. Sunday. Arrival by 7:00 p.m. is important to allow time to register and unpack.

How Much Does it Cost?

The weekend costs \$300.00 for Diocesan couples (\$325.00 for couples who are not Catholic and couples from parishes outside the Diocese of Harrisburg.) The fee includes overnight lodging in, meals and materials. A \$50.00 check made out to the Diocese of Harrisburg will reserve you a place on the weekend. Weekends are limited to 20 couples. The registration fee is transferable but not refundable. The fee for the weekend is subject to change without notice. Please note that all sleeping rooms are pre-assigned by the Family Ministries Staff—two people of the same gender in each room.

No couple should let financial concerns prevent them from making an Engaged Encounter. Payment arrangements can be made on an individual basis if the couple or their parish cannot afford the expense.

The Hampton Inn is accessible to wheelchairs. However, couples with disabilities who plan to attend the Engaged Encounter weekend should contact the Family Ministries Office by phone, email or relay so that their needs can be met.



Engaged Encounter Weekend Registration Form (Please Print Clearly)

Bride: _____

Preferred name for ID Badge _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Age: ____ Previous Marriage: __yes __no

Religion: _____

Parish/Church: _____

Occupation: _____

Groom: _____

Preferred name for ID Badge _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Age: ____ Previous Marriage: __yes __no

Religion: _____

Parish/Church: _____

Occupation: _____

Email: _____

Date of Wedding: _____

Parish: _____

Desired Weekend: _____

Second Choice: _____

For reservation send this form & \$50 deposit, check payable to Diocese of Harrisburg to:

**Family Ministries Office
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710**



If you require special accommodations for the *God's Plan* or *Engaged Encounter* programs (sign language interpreters, etc.), please contact us in advance so that we can make arrangements.