NORMS FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Marriage preparation in the Diocese of Harrisburg shall take place over a minimum of nine months and consist of the following components:

1. **Canonical Process** - Initial interview with the priest or deacon where the required canonical forms are completed.

2. **Pre-marital Inventory** (e.g. FOCUS, PREPARE, etc.).

3. **Formation** - Meet at least four (4) times with a mentor couple, a priest or deacon, or another parish-appointed leader for marriage preparation. At least one of these meetings must be with a priest or deacon for an instructional session on the nature of Catholic marriage.

4. **Conference** – Attend a diocesan marriage preparation conference, per the preparing clergy’s instructions. Note that these conferences fulfill the diocesan requirement to attend a short introductory talk on Natural Family Planning as well as a talk on the sacramentality of marriage.

5. **Concluding Assessment** – Meet with the priest or deacon for a final assessment before marriage (done as needed).

6. **Liturical Planning** – Meet with the priest or deacon (and any other liturgical ministers) to plan a prayerful and reverent ceremony.

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Registration Form

**Bride’s Information:**
Name: ________________________________
Name for Badge: _______________________
Mailing Address: __________________________
________________________________________
Phone: ___________________ Age: ________
E-Mail: _______________________________
Religious Denomination: __________________
Education Level: __________ Occupation: __________

**Groom’s Information:**
Name: ________________________________
Name for Badge: _______________________
Mailing Address: __________________________
________________________________________
Phone: ___________________ Age: ________
E-Mail: _______________________________
Religious Denomination: __________________
Education Level: __________ Occupation: __________
Parish where you are receiving Marriage Prep:
________________________________________

Date & Church of Wedding: __________________________
Married Before? (Y/N)  Bride _____  Groom _____
Dietary Restrictions: _____________________________________

God’s Plan preference:
Date/Location of 1st Choice: __________________________
Date/Location of 2nd Choice: __________________________
God’s Plan for Love is, first and foremost, a catechesis in the Catholic vision of marriage, the human person, and the sacramental understanding of conjugal love. Employing the rich, affirming language of St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body, God’s Plan for Love introduces engaged couples to a glorious vision of the sacrament of matrimony.

The sessions help couples understand what they are saying, “I do,” to. In the first three sessions, we unpack the biblical and historic Catholic vision of the sacrament of matrimony and what a couple is committing to at the altar. In the last three sessions, we catechize couples on the truth and meaning of human sexuality.

God’s Plan offers a refreshing, liberating vision of marriage and sexuality rather than a list of “prohibitions.”

Program cost: $125 per couple.

The Six Sessions

God’s Plan for Marriage
“in the Beginning”
Couples are introduced to the idea that God had a plan for married love all along and that the vocation of marriage is of great significance.

Christ Restores God’s Plan for Marriage
Love is hard to live perfectly, but God provides the grace and virtues to overcome our weaknesses.

To What Are You Saying, “I Do”?
Couples learn in detail how the Catholic Church defines marriage and what is required for a marriage to be valid.

Where the Words of Your Vows Become Flesh
The complementarity of man and woman is a sign of God’s love that must be reflected honestly within the marital embrace.

The Beauty of Openness to Life
An OB/GYN physician describes a better way to understand reproductive health, and a young married couple share their experience with Natural Family Planning.

Living God’s Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage
A couple married more than sixty years shares the wisdom, fun, and sense of joy that marriage has brought them, and Christopher West offers practical advice on how to keep God as the foundation of your marriage.

Program Dates for 2020

God’s Plan for Love
Saturdays from 8:45 am - 3:30 pm

Immaculate Conception of the BVM, Fairfield
2/22, 5/16, 10/17

Saint Patrick Parish, Marsh Drive, Carlisle
4/25, 8/22, 11/7

Saint Joseph Parish, Danville
2/8, 5/30, 9/26

Diocesan Conference Center, Harrisburg
1/18, 3/14, 4/18, 7/11, 8/1, 10/10

Saint Leo the Great Parish, Lancaster
1/4, 3/21, 9/12

Diocesan Conference Center, Harrisburg
6/4 & 6/11 (Thursdays)
9/10 & 9/17 (Tuesdays)

***Registration Deadline: 2 weeks before seminar/weekend, but may fill earlier.

Please make checks payable to Diocese of Harrisburg and send to:
Office of Family & Respect Life Ministries
4800 Union Deposit Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710

Prefer to register online or use a credit card? Go to www.hbgdiocese.org/mppr