

Archdiocese of Boston Marriage Ministries

MISSION:

Marriage Ministries serves parishes and individuals in marriage education, marriage preparation, and marriage enrichment. We do this by bringing together:

- 1) **CATECHESIS:** the richness of the Church's teachings on marriage and family, along with
- 2) **WITNESS:** the lived witness and experience of married couples, while employing
- 3) **SKILL:** the best of parochial and secular research and practical skills.

GOALS:

Our goals are to:

- 1) help educate youth and young adults on what marriage is;
- 2) help engaged couples form valid and successful marriages;
- 3) help support married couples to live out their marriage vows.

SERVICES:

MARRIAGE EDUCATION:

All of the below presentation use a PowerPoint presentation and are 45 minutes plus 15 minutes for Q & A.

- Speakers on marriage for Confirmation, Campus Ministry, and RCIA programs.
- Speakers on marriage for DRE and Youth Ministry Leader gatherings.
- Speakers on Theology of the Body for youth, young adult, and adult faith formation.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

- Training and on-going support for parishes beginning a Marriage Preparation Program.
- FOCCUS® training.
- Marriage Preparation Director support, gatherings, and mailings.
- Marriage Preparation Program Schedule: <http://www.familylifeboston.com/html/marriageprep.html>

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT:

- *Tools for an Exceptional Marriage; A Seminar for Engaged and Married Couples;* a communications skills course offered in each of the five regions annually; www.familylifeboston.com/html/marriageenrich.html

Quotes from participants:

- *“Program was awesome—every parish in the Archdiocese should offer this. Please promote it.”*
- *“We have been seeking a ‘Catholic’ solution to the difficulties we face in our marriage, and we are so thrilled to have found this program.”*
- Training for parish-based marriage enrichment opportunities; such as *Re-FOCCUS®*, *The 5 Love Languages®*, and *10 Great Dates Program®*.
- *Worldwide Marriage Encounter:* www.WWMEMA.org or call 1-800-710-WWME
- *Retrouvaille;* a Lifeline for Troubled Marriages: www.retrouvaille.org or call 1-800-470-2230
- Marriage Counseling Referrals, please call (617) 746-5800.
- *25th and 50th Wedding Anniversary Mass.*

CARDINAL'S COMMITTEE ON MARRIAGE:

In January 2006, Seán Cardinal O'Malley, OFM, Cap. established a Committee on Marriage for the purpose of looking at marriage—it's sanctity, marriage education, remote and proximate marriage preparation, and marriage enrichment and support. The Committee was made up of representatives from various marriage related ministries and services. That Committee submitted recommendations in the areas of marriage education, preparation, and enrichment. Since then, the Cardinal has established a new Committee focused primarily on marriage preparation. Please stay tuned through our Office website: www.familylifeboston.com for additional information on the work of this Committee and any new resources or services available in any of the above areas of ministry.

CONTACT:

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Page 1 of 6

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