

Family Life Office News

Through Prayer and Activity, We Support the Family.

A "New" Newsletter for You

We're blessed in the Family Life Office with the opportunity to work and network with so many people: our pastors, clergy, parish staff, other dioceses and all the wonderful volunteers in marriage and family ministry.

With this issue, we're expanding our former *Volunteer News* format and distribution to become the *Family Life Office News*. This will improve our ability

to communicate news, events and information that may help (and perhaps inspire) even more people in family ministry in our Archdiocese.



Please let us know if you find this new format useful or have any tips to share. (And pass it around!) May God bless you in 2006, and thanks for all you do!

Winter 2006

Family Life Office News

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June 2006: Mark your Calendars!

June is often known as a month for weddings (As well as the Eucharistic Congress!). But June of 2006 in Atlanta is marked by three great opportunities to celebrate and support marriage.

Not familiar with NACFLM? Read more on page 2...

Family Ministers: Sharing at the Table, will be "based on the four strands of NACFLM's family ministry training program..." "Table" has a sacred significance to us in our worship and in our homes. It is a place of coming together to share ideas and nourishment."



The **First Annual Golden and Diamond Wedding Anniversary Mass** will be celebrated on Sunday, June 4, 2006 at 3PM in the

Cathedral of Christ the King. The chief celebrant will be Archbishop Wilton Gregory. A reception will follow. Couples in our Archdiocese and their families who are celebrating their 50th or 60th wedding anniversary in 2006 will receive their own personal invitation.

The conference will feature exciting speakers discussing relevant topics like Elizabeth Marquardt, author of *Between Two Worlds: The Inner Lives of Children of Divorce*. Four keynotes will address these areas of the Christian vision of family life: the family as developing system, family diversity, partnership between families and social institutions. Call 937-229-3324 or visit www.nacflm.org for more information.



Open to members and non-members! **The National Association**

of Catholic Family Life Ministers (NACFLM) will hold their annual conference here in Atlanta on Wednesday June 21 and Thursday June 22, 2006 at the Atlanta Marriot Marquis, a few blocks away from the Catholic Center in Midtown. Archbishop Gregory will celebrate Mass with participants.

The NACFLM conference is being offered in conjunction with the **10th Annual Smart Marriages Conference** during their pre-conference schedule.

Anyone working in marriage and family ministry would probably be interested in something Smart Marriages has to

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Mark Your Calendars (cont.)

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offer. Open to Counselors, Clergy, Social Workers, Family Life Educators, Therapists, Policy Makers, Family Advocates, Teachers, Lawyers, Health Care Professionals and the Public. CEU's are available. Networking and enrichment opportunities abound. Parish staff or ministry volunteers might want to check the training institutes in particular. (Since it's in Atlanta this year, save on travel and hotel costs!)



The 10th Annual Smart Marriages Conference will be held this year in Atlanta at the downtown Marriot Marquis Hotel.

Main Conference: June 22 -June 25, 2006

- Includes twenty keynotes, eight 90-minute workshops (choose from over 100), mini-training institutes (choose from over 20) and opening reception.

Training Institutes

- In addition to the conference and mini-training institutes, there will also be thirty-four different one to three day Pre-Conference (June 20-22nd) and Post-Conference (June 26-28) Training Institutes offered this year. Participation can certify you to present nationally known programs. The pre-conference schedule includes NACFLM.

Costs to participants will vary depending on what you attend and when you register. Brochures will be available in March. (Discounts for early registration by May 5th.) See www.smartmarriages.com for descriptions,

registration brochures and free e-newsletter.

What's Free at the Conference:

- Exhibits June 22-25th are open to the public. See poster sessions, door-prizes, courses, books, tapes.
- Two days of presentations for educators to learn about a variety of school and youth programs with ready-to-teach curricula on relationships, marriage and family life.

Almost Free:

- Enrichment seminars on Sunday afternoon, Choose from a variety of 90-minute sessions for \$15. For parents and kids, married couples, singles, stepfamilies. Open to the public.

Description of the organization: "The Coalition for Marriage, Family and Couples Education (CMFCE) is an interest group whose members are convinced that family breakdown can be reduced through education and information. The only membership requirement is an interest in in strengthening marriages and families. If you are interested, you are a member. There are no dues."

"The CMFCE is non-denominational, non-partisan, and non-sectarian and is supported solely by the proceeds of the annual "Smart Marriages" conference. Conference presenters volunteer their time and expertise."

Learn More About NACFLM:

"In response to God's word revealed through all generations, the members of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers join together:

- to offer support and professional enrichment for those who minister to and with families.
- to be a voice and advocate for families and family ministry
- to promote the development of family life ministry on all levels of the Church.
- to foster family perspective in Church and Society.

The association provides opportunities for: Enrichment, Education,

Resourcing, Mutual Support, Networking, Advocacy, and Partnership.

NACFLM includes in its membership diocesan and parish family life ministers, allied organizations, families, and individuals who are involved in a wide variety of ministry specializations:

- Singles
- Engaged Couples
- Married Couples
- Respect Life / NFP
- Interchurch Ecumenical Marriage
- Marriage and Family Enrichment

- Marriage and Families in Crisis
- Separated and Divorced
- Widowed/Bereaved/Grieving
- Older Adults
- Parents
- Culturally Diverse Families
- Families with Special Needs
- Family Spirituality
- Leadership Couples and Families"

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Spotlight: A Resource for Parish Ministry to Marriage

10 Great Dates

How often do you hear that “there aren’t enough hours in the day to do all that needs to be done” from families in your parish? Husbands and wives at all stages of marriage often come to find that their relationship has taken a backseat to everything else on their list of things “To Do”.

Even in the first five years of marriage, how to balance time and relationship was one of the two top problem issues reported by couples participating in a national study *Time, Sex and Money: The First Five Years of Marriage* conducted by the Center for Marriage and Family at Creighton University. (Handling debt was a top concern in the very first year.)

Parenting, career and work outside the home all compete for couples’ attention so strongly that the couple relationship is repeatedly placed on the back burner. Couples may hope that they’ll have more time for one another when everyone else’s needs are met. Or they may believe that since they love each other and are married, the relationship should be maintenance-free.

But a strong bond between the couple enlarges their capacity to fulfill all their other roles in family and community. If their relationship isn’t cared for, their ability to image Christ’s love to others may suffer. Parishes can support the whole family by encouraging and reinforcing married couples’ habit of nurturing their marriage as a top priority.

But how? The program we’re spotlighting today is called *Ten Great Dates to Energize Your Marriage*. It’s fun, easy to implement, and structured to fit busy family schedules. This program helps couples at any stage of marriage to build the habit of setting aside regular time to nurture their relationship, develop their couple spirituality, and learn some great relationship skills as well.

One of our parishes, St. John Neumann in Lilburn, have developed their own variation of the program, *Great Dates*, to be launched at a kick-off party this February 4th. They report a great response to date.

If your parish would like to preview the program and learn more about how other dioceses across the country have been using it, call Linda Sweeney at the Family Life Office to come out and meet with you.

You can also learn more about the program and the authors Claudia Arp and David Arp, MSSW at: <http://www.marriagealive.com/Resources/marriage/10Dates/index.cfm> The Arps will also be presenters at the Smart Marriages conference in June.

Look for other programs to be spotlighted in future issues of the newsletter. Also, call the Family Life Office to let us know what you need. and we can work together to develop resources for your parish ministry.

The “Majority of respondents had *not* been invited to a church event as a newly married couple.... but over 1/2 said they *would* attend if personally invited.... [The] most utilized resources were monthly masses for newly marrieds, pregnancy classes and publications. More than 60% said they would use both marriage enrichment and marriage counseling if available (and if child care available).

From: *Time, Sex and Money: The First Five Years of Marriage*

Additions to the Natural Family Planning Class Schedule

Instructors: Matt and Elaine Mills
Phone: (770) 886-4267
Location: Good Shepherd Church,
Cumming
Time: 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
February 18, March 18, April 29, May 20



Instructors: Chris and Carrie Borgerding
Phone: (770) 205-0429
Location: Holy Spirit Church
Time: 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.
February 26, March 26, April 23, May 21

Classes are offered in a series and registration is required.

*For additional information about NFP, call Lynn Crutchfield at the Family Life Office: 404-885-7450.
Check for the latest class schedule updates at: www.archatl.com/offices/familylife/classes.htm*

2006 Family Life Office and Family Life Board

Marriage Preparation	January	February	March
PreCana Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 hour Saturday workshop at the Catholic Center. 	Jan. 7 Jan. 28	Feb. 11 Feb. 25	March 11 March 25
ReMarriage Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 hour Saturday workshop at the Catholic Center for couples when one or both have lost a spouse through death or divorce. 	Jan. 21	Feb. 18	March 18
African American Marriage Program: "The Greatest of These is Love" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saturday marriage prep. or enrichment workshop by Deacon Fred and Connie Sambrone at Lyke House/Atlanta University Center. In the context of committed Christian marriage, also honors and explains traditions found in African-American culture. 		Feb. 25	
<i>*** Register for PreCana, ReMarriage and AAMP through the FLO at 404-885-7819. Forms available on-line at http://www.archatl.com/offices/familylife/programs.htm</i>			
Parish-Based PreCana: Two or four day expanded PreCana format, operated independently by and in the parish, offered one to two times per year.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Joseph, Marietta: Friday night and Saturday. Call 770-425-2854. 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Andrew, Roswell: 4 sessions over 2 weekends. Call 770-641-9720. 	Jan. 27-28	Feb. 3-4	
Catholic Engaged Encounter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friday evening through Sunday afternoon or Saturday through Sunday retreat format, various locations. Call 770-975-1147 or www.atlcee.org 	Jan 20-22 Calvin Center	Feb 11-12 Simpson-wood	March 18-19 Hilton Garden
Llamados a Ser Uno (Called to Be One) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saturday program offered in Spanish. Call 770-216-0371 or www.llasu.org 		Feb. 25 Holy Spirit	
Three to Get Married <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekend program, days only, offered through the Center for Family Development. Call Diane Brooke at 770-557-0743 or diane@dig-disc.com 	Jan. 6-8		March 3-5
Marriage Enrichment			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Friday evening through Sunday at area hotels or retreat centers. * <i>English:</i> Call Bob and Joy at 866-285-9963 or www.WWMEatlanta.org * <i>Hispanic:</i> Call Luis y Marta Quintana at 770-374-0772. * <i>Korean:</i> Call Jay and Jinny Yoon 770-446-5770. 	Jan 27-29 (English)		Mar. 17-19 (English)
<i>Note: Two weekends in Spanish and one or more in Korean are planned for 2006. Please call contact #'s for dates.</i>			
Marriage Repair			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retrouvaille: Friday evening through Sunday with six follow-up sessions. Call Reed and Susan Polomsky at (770) 495-8592 for information, or visit www.retrouvailleofatlanta.org <i>New: Hispanic team is currently in formation, weekends may be scheduled later this year.</i> 	Jan. 13-15		March 10-12
Divorced and Separated			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Linda Sweeney @ 404-885-7209 or lsweeney@archatl.com for current listing of support groups and events. 			
Some Upcoming Family Life Events in 2006: February: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th: Family Life Board Meeting 6:30-8:30PM @ the Catholic Center 7th- 14th: Marriage Week USA observed 11th: WWME World Marriage Day Valentine Ball 		February: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday, February 12: World Marriage Day March: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18th Sponsor Couple Training Workshop at Immaculate Heart of Mary. Call Lynn Crutchfield at 404-885-7450 for registration information. 	

Marriage Ministry Calendar

2006

April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
April 1st April 29	May 6 May 20	June 10	July 15 July 29	Aug. 12 Aug 26	Sept. 23	Oct 7 Oct. 21	Nov. 4	Dec. 2
April 22	May 13	June 17	July 22	Aug. 19	Sept.16	Oct. 14	Nov. 11	----
April 1				Aug. 19			Nov. 11	
	May/TBD							
			July 28-29	Aug. 4-5				
April 22-23 Simpson-wood	----	June 3-4 Hilton Garden	----	Aug 19-20 Simpson-wood	Sept 16-17 Simpson-wood	Oct 14-15 Simpson-wood	-----	----
	May 20 Holy Spirit			Aug. 19 Holy Spirit			Nov. 4 Holy Spirit	
April 21-23								
April 21-23 (English)		June 16-18 (English)		Aug. 18-20 (English)	Sept: 22-24 (English)	Oct. 20-22 (English)	Nov. 17-19 (English)	
	May 19-21		July 14-16			Oct. 13-15		

June:

- **4th: Archdiocesan Mass** with Archbishop Gregory celebrating all 50th and 60th Anniversaries of Marriage, CTK.
- **21st-22nd: NACFLM Annual National Conference**, Atlanta (National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers)
- **20th-28th: Smart Marriages 10th Annual Conference.**

June/July:

- **June 29th-July 2nd: North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics (NACSDC) Annual Conference** at Notre Dame University; Ministry Leadership Seminars: June 26-June 29
- **October: Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Support groups for the Divorced and Separated

Note: Most support groups are open to all; you do not have to be a member of the parish. Always call the parish first to confirm time, date and location of the meeting, or to register if needed.

- **Holy Spirit**, 4465 Northside Dr. NW, Atlanta (404-252-4513): Open-ended support group for those dealing with divorce meets 7-8:30PM on the first and third Wednesday of the month in classrooms 9A and 9B of the education building. Contact Deacon Bill McCarthy at extension 232 or [deacon-bill@hscat1.com](mailto:bill@hscat1.com).
- **St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church**, 7171 Glenridge Dr., NE, Atlanta (770-394-3896): Separated, Widowed and Divorced Group meets every Tuesday night from 7:30-9:00PM in room 233, Ministry Building. Ongoing group, new member can come any Tuesday.
- **St. Brendan Catholic Church**, 4633 Shiloh Rd., Cumming (770-205-7969): *Divorce Care*, 13 week series offered periodically through the year. Participants can join at any time. For more information, e-mail Lynn: lynnbianco1@aol.com or call Sr. Joan: 770-205-7969, ext. 15
- **Catholic Church of St. Monica**, 1700 Buford Highway, Duluth (678-584-9947): Seeking Ourselves, Understanding Loss (SOUL). A twelve week long series using a program called *ReBuilding*. Open to any adult suffering the loss of a significant love relationship. Closes to new members after second meeting. First series began September 13, 2005. Contact Kate Oates, the Director of Religious Education at the parish, to get more information, to register for future groups and/or if you have need for immediate support.
- **St. Lawrence Catholic Church**, 319 Grayson Hwy., Lawrenceville (770-963-8992): Divorce Care program, 13 week series twice a year, one usually starts in late summer so as to end prior to Thanksgiving. The other begins after the holidays in time to end before Easter. Participants can usually join at any time. Contact the parish for more information.
- **Catholic Church of St. Ann**, 4905 Roswell Rd, NE, Marietta (770-552-6400 ext. 6020): Open-ended support group, open to all. Meets every Tuesday night at 8:00PM. Call the parish for location and information.
- **St. Joseph Catholic Church**, 87 Lacy St., Marietta (770-422-5633): Open-ended support group, weekly meeting. Contact parish for time and location.
- **Holy Trinity Catholic Church**, 101 Walt Banks Road, Peachtree City (770-487-7672): Divorce Care, a facilitated 13 week video and discussion series began again in November. Can join the group at any point, but please first contact Kathy Kelly, Adult Education/RCIA Coordinator at 770-487-0175
- **St. Mary Magdalene**, 4046 Lower Fayetteville Road, Sharpsburg (770-253-1888): An eight week series using the *Divorce and Beyond* program. Group closes to new members after the second meeting of the series. Last group ended in November, but call the parish for information on upcoming groups or if you need more immediate support.
- **Multiple location program:** *Journey of Hope* is a program developed by Lisa Duffy, a parishioner at St. Peter Chanel. She has offered the program several times at both St. Brigid in Alpharetta and the Cathedral of Christ the King in Atlanta. The series consists of 16 weekly sessions, separate groups for men and women. Registration closes after the first several meetings to new members. Call 404-493-2190 for information about the content of the program and upcoming dates. A new group began in January, 2006 at St. Brigid Catholic Church in Alpharetta.

Note: Other parishes may begin support groups this year, so call parishes that are close by to find out. This is also a good way to let them know that interest and need exists. Or call the Family Life Office at 404-885-7209 for information not available at the time of this printing.

Definitions:

Support group: *A time and place for people facing similar problems and challenges to come together for mutual support, sharing of both problems and solutions, healing from loss and grief, and for personal and spiritual growth. Support groups are by their nature intended to be confidential and to have one or two people who serve as facilitators. Social activities may be linked to a support group but are not the primary purpose.*

Open-ended support group: *This format is open to people at any stage of healing, from those just being faced with the loss of their spouse to those who are farther along in coping and rebuilding their lives. Ideally, you will meet people who have a unique understanding of the challenges you face because they have been through them. The group is not built around a program that begins and ends, so new people can come to any meeting, and there is no commitment to stay for a certain period of time, although it is recommended to try the group a few times before deciding if it is right for you.*

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Support Groups (cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

Programs: Some support groups will be centered on a specific program using a book or video series as the basis for learning and discussion. These groups usu-

ally have an identifiable beginning and end. A close-ended group like this may be open to new people coming in at any point, but is more likely to close the group at or near the beginning. Talk to the group's contact person about their specific content and structure.

NACSDC

North American Conference for Separated and Divorced Catholics

NACSDC Office, PO Box 10, Hancock MI
Phone: 906-482-0494 or visit www.nacsd.org/

Description: Since 1974, NACSDC has been responsible for creating a network of support for families experiencing separation and divorce. Membership is

open to all, but not required to use many of their resources. They work with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, dioceses and parishes in building support networks and providing education. On their website, you can find useful and supportive information, links, and a bookstore. Their annual conference is held every summer at Notre Dame University. In 2006, they will be offering pre-conference support group facilitator training.

Beginning Experience Weekends

A Beginning Experience weekend is program for adults grieving loss through death, divorce or separation, who are ready to come to terms with their loss and begin to move forward with their lives. Presenting teams include clergy and lay people who have participated in weekends themselves and who are now trained in this ministry.

Established in the 1970's, Beginning Experience has its roots in the Catholic Church. While teams usually are sponsored by Catholic or main line Protestant denominations, the programs are designed to be open and comfortable for people of all faiths.

Weekends are not offered in Georgia, but are available in a number of neighboring states, including Alabama, Tennessee, and South Carolina.

The following information was available at the time of printing. All scheduled dates indicate the first day of a core Beginning Experience weekend. Note they may begin on Thursday, Friday or Saturday.

TEAM: **Birmingham, AL**

Call 1-205-529-6905 or write to Beginning Experience-Birmingham, PO Box 59055, Birmingham, AL 35259. \$110 (aid available) for meals/lodging at Benedictine Spirituality and Conference Center.

- March 31st, 2006
- October 20th, 2006

Weekly meetings and weekend follow-up also available

TEAM: **Huntsville, AL**

Email: hastings_jane@yahoo.com

- May 5-7, 2006 at St. Bernard's Retreat Center

TEAM: **Mobile, AL**

Email: marian.young@mchsi.com

Marian Young—251-776-6405
Jeanne Freeman—251-607-9680
Billy Dossett—251-602-8164

Mobile Website www.beginningexperiencemobile.org/

- March 24—26, 2006

TEAM: **Nashville, TN**

Email: slwalker@dtccom.net

- No weekend scheduled at this time, spring date possible

TEAM: **South Carolina** Lowcountry

Phone: 803-492-7644

Email: historic@tri-countyelectric.net

Link to South Carolina Lowcountry Team <http://www.pietty.com/tbe/pages/pressrelease.htm>

- April 21st, 2006
- June 30th, 2006
- September 30th, 2006

Contact those listed above for more information on the weekend, location and costs (which normally includes meals and accommodations). Also visit the national website www.beginningexperience.org or call 1-866-610-8877 if you need further information.

**Archdiocese of Atlanta
Family Life Office**

The Catholic Center
680 W. Peachtree St NW
Atlanta, GA 30308-1984

World Marriage Day Is Sunday February 12



Sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, "World Marriage Day is the second Sunday in February and "honors the lifelong commitment of husband and wife as head of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of couple's fidelity, sacrifice, and joy in daily married life.

The day elevates public awareness of the positive aspects of marriage."

"The idea of celebrating marriage began in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1981 when a group of couples decided to encourage their mayor, bishop and governor to proclaim St. Valentine's Day as "*We Believe in Marriage Day*". The event was so successful, the idea spread to other communities.

By 1982, 43 governors officially proclaimed the day and celebrations spread to U. S. Military bases in several foreign countries. In 1983, the name was changed to "World Marriage Day", designated to be each year on the second Sunday in February, and emphasis was placed on interfaith participation.

In 1993, his Holiness, Pope John Paul II, imparted his Apostolic Blessings on World Marriage Day. World Marriage Day celebrations continue to grow and spread to more countries and faith expressions every year."

"The World Marriage Day Symbol speaks readily of the role and values of marriage. A couple, seen symbolically as two candle-like figures, reminds us that married love calls us to help enlighten the world. The couple is joined by a heart, focusing on love as the power that fosters unity within the couple and generates the capacity to be life-giving and inspire others to fruitfulness and unity."

Source: World Wide Marriage Encounter

All married couples are invited to attend
"The Romantic Event of the Year":
Atlanta World Wide Marriage Encounter's
21st Annual World Marriage Day Ball

Saturday, February 11, 2006.
Contact Ed & Nancy Poorbaugh
678-682-9246, epoorbaugh@charter.net
or make reservations on their website:
www.meatlanta.org/wmd/WMDVB.htm