

# Family Life Office News

*Through Prayer and Activity, We Support the Family.*

Winter/Spring 2008

Family Life Office News

## Two For You

*They are both Catholic, they are both about marriage and family, and they both begin with "www"...*

The Family Life Office and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) simultaneously launched web-based resources for you in 2007.

The USCCB launched their new website supporting strong marriages named "For Your Marriage". Part of the ongoing pastoral initiative in support of marriage, you can look it up on the web at:

[www.ForYourMarriage.org](http://www.ForYourMarriage.org)



The question "What have you done for your marriage today?" is asked and answered in a series of "man on the street" interviews in five cities across the country. The answers couples give are sometimes funny, sometimes surprising, but always heartwarming.

These memorable video minutes are public service announcements that can be viewed on the website. They both set the tone and send the message that the Church wants to offer tangible and public support for marriage and family.

This website is a rich source of information, inspiration, encouragement and hope for every stage of Catholic marriage and well worth a look.

The section specifically "For Catholic Marriage" offers a wide array of information. It is presented in a very accessible manner that won't likely intimidate be-

ginners while offering enough substance for those more advanced.

The very real difficulties and problems that couples can face are validated by the broad scope of information available for couples struggling with such issues as infertility, divorce, annulment, domestic violence, and infidelity.

"Healthy marriages are the bedrock of our church and our society," said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz, chairman of the bishops' Marriage and Family Life Committee, announcing the campaign. "The church seeks to do all it can to encourage what goes into a solid marriage: prayer, fidelity, commitment, and the little things that count."

Through the multi-year USCCB National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage, the bishops hope "to convey the meaning and value of married life for the Church and for society."

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Simultaneous with the launch of "ForYourMarriage.org", the Family Life Office launched their new and improved webpage on our Archdiocesan website. Our Family Life page and the USCCB website are linked to each other, as are all the Family Life websites in dioceses across the country. You can find it here: [www.archatl.com/offices/familylife](http://www.archatl.com/offices/familylife).

We've retained all the information about training and workshops but added so much more. We hope to be a resource to all those in parish ministry to families. We also hope that this webpage can serve

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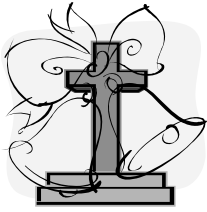
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# 50th and 60th Marriage Anniversary Mass



*On a beautiful afternoon last October, one hundred couples and their families gathered to celebrate their 50th or 60th anniversary of their marriage. Archbishop Gregory was the principle celebrant at a special Mass. Concelebrating priests were joined by*

*deacons, seminarians and deacons in training, showing the esteem in which these couples are held as the best examples of life, love and commitment we can find.. Over 700 people gathered after the mass for a champagne reception. Following is the text of Archbishop Gregory's homily for the jubilee Mass.*

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For any of you fortunate enough ever to have made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, you probably made a visit to the village of Cana during that trip. I am convinced that if it had not been for this particular Gospel story, Cana would be simply just another small settlement in that part of the world that still lives with too much hatred and violence in the long disputed land that Christians, Jews and Muslims consider sacred. But because of John's meticulous description of a wedding feast that took place in Cana, it continues to hold special significance for Christians the world over.

There are so many details that John attends to in this Gospel story, that Cana is forever a place identified with wedding celebrations. There are even a few wedding chapels in modern day Cana where couples can be married—so powerful is the spirit of this little village now identified with matrimony.

Yet in spite of all of the details that John records in telling this tale of a wedding celebration, there is one glaring oversight that he fails to chronicle. We do not know the name of the young couple whose wedding

celebration Jesus and His Mother and disciples graced. We know the number and the capacity of the vessels that would hold the precious and miraculous superior wine that Christ gave as a wedding gift to the young couple. We know that Mary instigated the miracle. We even know some of the words that people spoke at the key moments of this wondrous event, but we do not know anything about the young couple, except that Jesus rescued their wedding festival from embarrassment and gave them a gift far more precious than they might have anticipated.

Could it be that this oversight is not really an omission at all? Is it not possible that the story of Cana is the story of every couple who dares to invite Christ and His Mother to their wedding? Whenever Christ is a part of the lives of married couples, whenever the Mother of Christ is present in their home, there are miracles of all sorts that inevitably take place.

Christ and His Mother bring joy and laughter to homes; they offer a way for the party of life to continue—even when the couples run out of their own meager resources. And the gifts that Christ offers are always far superior to anything that the young couple might have had before.

Today, we rejoice with couples from throughout our archdiocese who would all testify, given the opportunity, that they have been graced by Christ and His Mother in ways that they might never have anticipated. For 60 or 50 years, they have been provided with a vintage of joy far finer than they might have expected. Through the years, they have been given the courage and the generosity of heart to forgive, to admit mistakes, to endure sorrows and disappointments, to embrace challenges that neither of them might have thought possible when they stood as a young, bright-eyed and clueless bride and groom more than half a century ago!

... "When he was 12 years old, Jesus stayed behind in the Temple and it took his parents all of three days to find him. With this act he made them understand that he "had to see to his Father's affairs", in other words, to the mission that God had entrusted to him (cf. Lk 2:41-52).

This Gospel episode reveals the most authentic and profound vocation of the family: that is, to accompany each of its members on the path of the discovery of God and of the plan that he has prepared for him or her."

-- From "*Living Image of the Love of God*" by Pope Benedict XVI  
for the feast of the Holy Family , January 1, 2007

## In the Know: NFP

The Family Life Office recommends that couples should receive instruction by certified teachers to effectively use Natural Family Planning (NFP).

- Classes for groups of couples are offered in various parishes by certified teachers, usually in a series of three classes, once a month. Registration is required and the next classes are registering now:

\* Chris and Carrie Borgerding  
(770) 205-0429 or [carriebg@bellsouth.net](mailto:carriebg@bellsouth.net)

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

April 6, May 4, June 8 from 2:00-5:00

\* Matt and Elaine Mills  
(770)-886-4267

The Cathedral of Christ the King

April 5, May 3, May 31 from 3:00 – 5:15

- Individual instruction in English or Spanish is also available.

You can call Lynn Crutchfield, NFP Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, at 404-885-7450 for information about NFP. Also see the Family Life Office webpage for upcoming classes and for a list of certified teachers.

Links are also posted on the Family Life Office webpage for additional information in English and Spanish:

<http://www.archatl.com/offices/familylife/nfp.html>

<http://www.archatl.com/offices/familylife/nfp-esp.html>



*To All Our NFP teachers:  
Don't forget to mark your calendar and  
RSVP to Lynn about the  
Appreciation Dinner on March 9th.*

## Sign Up Your Newly Married Couples

- \* **Together for Life** is a free e-newsletter now available for newly married couples. Published by Ave Maria Press, it is the work of various authors and Fr. Joseph Champlin, author of the popular *Together For Life* marriage preparation book.

Visit [www.avemariapress.com](http://www.avemariapress.com) and look for the link to the *Together for Life* newsletter.



Other Catholic publications for newly married couples:

- **FOUNDATIONS** newsletter for newly married couples (\$20.00 1 year, \$25.00 for two). Call 1-800-775-4757 or visit [wwwFOUNDATIONSnewsletter.net](http://wwwFOUNDATIONSnewsletter.net)
- **First Year and Forever** e-newsletter (free) and **Marriage Partnership, Catholic Couples edition** (19.95/year). Contact the Archdiocese of Chicago Family Ministries Office at (312) 751-3858 or on-line at <http://www.familyministries.org/>

## Landmark Study on Catholic Marriage Released

**Marriage in the Catholic Church: A Study of U.S. Catholics** was commissioned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and completed in October of 2007. The report has just recently been made available to the public.

“The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) has rendered a valuable service in conducting this landmark national research project on U.S. Catholics and marriage” said Archbishop Joseph Kurtz in his published response to the research. Archbishop Kurtz is Chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on Marriage and Family Life.

“This is the first time that such a varied and comprehensive body of data about Catholic patterns in marriage has been collected and analyzed.” he wrote.

One of the findings of the report was that Catholics are very similar to the U.S. population as a whole in terms

of the demography of marriage, such as marital status, age at first marriage, and having been divorced.

“The study also provides much information and insight about Catholics’ familiarity with Church teaching on marriage, their views on a variety of issues, their attitudes, values and behaviors regarding certain aspects of marriage and family life.” the archbishop noted. “Not surprisingly, the study paints a mixed picture. It gives us reasons to be grateful and hopeful. It also raises concerns and presents us with challenges.”

The study will provide important information to inform the work of the National Pastoral Initiative on Marriage, as well as being of great interest to everyone working in Catholic marriage ministry.

In the open tradition of the last several years, the report and related documents are now available on-line at <http://www.usccb.org/laity/marriage/npim.shtml>.

# 2008 Family Life Office and Family Life Board \*

|   | January                 | February               | March                           | April                    | May                    |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>PreCana</b>  | Jan.5<br>Jan. 26        | Feb.2<br>Feb. 16       | March 1<br>March 15<br>March 29 | April5<br>April 26       | May 3<br>May 17        |
| <b>ReMarriage</b>   | Jan. 12                 | Feb. 9                 | March 8                         | April 12                 | May 10                 |
| <b>AAMP</b>   |                         | Feb. 23                |                                 |                          | May 3                  |
| <b>Engaged Encounter</b>  | Jan.25-26               |                        | March 29-30                     | April 12-13              | May 17-18              |
| <b>LLASU</b>  |                         | Feb.9                  |                                 |                          | May 3                  |
| <b>3 To Get Married</b>   |                         | Feb. 8-10              |                                 | April 25-27              |                        |
| <b>Marriage Encounter</b><br><b>Spanish</b><br><i>(Saturday-Sunday)</i><br><b>Korean:</b> Weekends to be determined | Jan 25-27<br>(English)  | Feb 22-24<br>(English) |                                 | April 25-27<br>(English) | (Spanish)<br>May 17-18 |
| <b>Retrouvaille</b><br><b>English</b><br><b>Spanish</b>   | Jan. 11-13<br>(English) |                        | March 7-9<br>(English)          | April 11-13<br>(Spanish) | May 16-18<br>(English) |

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION

**Family Life Office:** Couples must be working with a priest or deacon before they can register. Register for PreCana, ReMarriage and AAMP through the Family Life Office at 404-888-7819 or obtain forms on-line at [www.archatl.com/offices/familylife/mprep/index.html](http://www.archatl.com/offices/familylife/mprep/index.html)

- **PreCana Workshop** - A seven hour Saturday workshop held at the Catholic Center.
- **ReMarriage Workshop:** A seven hour Saturday workshop at the Catholic Center when one or both have lost a spouse through death or divorce.
- **African American Marriage Program:** "The Greatest of These is Love" or AAMP is a Saturday marriage preparation or enrichment workshop by Deacon Fred and Connie Sambrone at Lyke House/Atlanta University Center. In the context of committed Christian marriage, it also honors and explains traditions found in African-American culture.
- **Parish-Based PreCana Workshops:** Expanded format PreCana workshops are offered by and in these parishes one to two times per year. Call the parish for dates and registration.
  - *St. Joseph, Marietta:* Friday night and Saturday. Call 770-425-2854
  - *St. Andrew, Roswell:* 4 sessions over 2 weekends.

### Atlanta Catholic Engaged Encounter

- **Engaged Encounter** weekends are Friday evening through Sunday afternoon or Saturday through Sunday retreat format, various locations. Call 770-975-1147 or [www.atlcee.org](http://www.atlcee.org)

### Llamados a Ser Uno (Called to Be One)

- **LLASU** is a Saturday program offered in Spanish. Call 678-327-6388 for registration.

### Center for Family Development

- **Three to Get Married** is a weekend program, without an overnight stay. E-mail [cfdatl@yahoo.com](mailto:cfdatl@yahoo.com) or call 770-396-2363 to register. Website: [www.cfdatl.com](http://www.cfdatl.com)

### Natural Family Planning

- **Natural Family Planning** classes are offered in various parishes throughout the Archdiocese or by appointment with individual instructors. Visit the Family Life Office NFP webpage at [www.archatl.com/offices/familylife/nfp](http://www.archatl.com/offices/familylife/nfp) for information about NFP, class schedules and teachers in English or Spanish. Or call Lynn Crutchfield, Archdiocesan NFP Coordinator at 404-885-7450.

# Marriage Ministry Calendar 2008

| June                    | July                    | August   | September                | October                 | November   | December |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------|
| June 7<br>June 28       | July 12<br>July 26      | Aug. 9<br>Aug. 13                                      | Sept. 27                 | ---                     | Nov. 8   | Dec. 13  |
| June 14                 | July 19                 | Aug. 2   | Sept. 20                 | Oct. 18                 | Nov. 15  | ---      |
|                         |                         | Aug. 16  |                          |                         | Nov. 8   |          |
|                         |                         | Aug. 23-24   |                          | Oct. 18-19              |  |          |
|                         |                         | Aug. 16  |                          |                         | Nov. 8   |          |
| June 22-24              |                         |  |                          |                         |  |          |
| June 20-22<br>(English) |                         | Aug. 15-17<br>(English)<br><br>(Spanish)<br>Aug. 16-17 | Sept: 26-28<br>(English) |                         | Nov. 14-16<br>(English)<br><br>(Spanish)<br>Nov. 15-16 |          |
|                         | July 18-20<br>(English) |  |                          | Oct. 12-14<br>(English) |  |          |

## MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

### Atlanta Area Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Friday evening through Sunday at area hotels or retreat centers. Weekends are offered in three languages. For information and registration:

- \* *English:* Call Bob and Joy Lambie at 866-285-9963 or [www.WWMEatlanta.org](http://www.WWMEatlanta.org)
- \* *Hispanic:* Esteban and Gloria Nolasco 770-425-1328 or e-mail [damanolasco@comcast.net](mailto:damanolasco@comcast.net)
- \* *Korean:* Call Brian & Young Choi 770-442-9271.

### 50th and 60th Marriage Anniversary Mass

Archbishop Gregory celebrates this special mass annually. It is organized through the Family Life Office. Couples married in 1948 or 1958 will be honored on October 25, 2008. Details about the time, place and how to receive an invitation will be announced in the parishes and the Georgia Bulletin this summer.

★ *The Family Life Board is a networking board of the Family Life Office. Representatives from Engaged Encounter, Llamados a Ser Uno, the African American Marriage Program, Marriage Encounter, Retrouvaille, the Center for Family Development and the Family Life Office staff meet quarterly.*

## MARRIAGE REPAIR

### Retrouvaille of Atlanta

The Retrouvaille program consists of a weekend experience combined with a series of 6-12 post-weekend sessions over 3 months. In Atlanta, weekends are offered in two languages. For information or registration:

- \* *English:* Call Dan and Andrea Murphy at 770-495-8592 or visit [www.retrouvailleofatlanta.org](http://www.retrouvailleofatlanta.org)
- \* *Spanish:* Call Carlos and Elizabeth Vizcaino at 770-393-1804

## SEPARATED AND DIVORCED CATHOLICS

Programs for the separated and divorced are parish-based ministries. Although active in a limited number of parishes, groups and activities usually welcome non-parishioners.

- For information about active parish programs visit [www.archatl.com/offices/familylife/dands.html](http://www.archatl.com/offices/familylife/dands.html)
- Or contact Linda Sweeney in the Family Life Office at 404-885-7209 or [lsweeney@archatl.com](mailto:lsweeney@archatl.com) for information about support groups, resources and events.

## **SPOTLIGHT on Programs for Parish Family Ministry:**

# *Embrace*

*Meeting the long term needs of single parents, divorced and separated through community*

If you ever get a chance to talk to Vince Frese about ministry to the separated and divorced, be prepared. He's passionate!

Catholics who are separated or divorced often find that the first year or two they must cope with a mountain of change and intense emotions. Support groups are often very helpful to people at that time. But what about that period after the storm? Challenges of single parenting, co-parenting, and how to live single as a Catholic are just some of the issues that simply aren't addressed in the larger parish community or even in adult singles groups.

"Being Catholic and being divorced--a lot of people feel they don't fit in," Vince explained. "But faith is a gift and it's the best for rebuilding." So several years ago Vince did the research and presented this need to pastor Fr. Reilly and the parish community of St. Ann in Marietta. With their support, and the dedicated efforts of the new ministry leadership, *Embrace* was launched.

*Embrace* is unique "because it doesn't focus on the initial grieving process (St. Ann's has strong ministries in place to help them) but it's for the long-term needs of divorced Catholics. If I'm trying to live in faith and grow in faith, here is a community to support and nurture [me]." Vince explained. "Christ is at the center of it."

A strong ministry leadership group organizes events at least monthly with Social, Educational or Spiritual themes. Chili cook-offs, wine-tastings, financial man-

agement after divorce, Church teaching on marriage and annulment, Mass and Eucharistic adoration have all been on the calendar. Men's and women's discussion groups have developed that meet in between the larger events. Ideas for the future include a one day mini-retreat to help understand, embrace and live as a single Catholic.

"Living the Catholic faith [after divorce] can be lonely." Vince explained. "You have to be careful in your lifestyle." Being afforded the opportunity for "like to meet like (like values, like faith) makes it more do-able and peace-filled. You feel connected where before you felt disconnected."

*Embrace* has a website and e-mailing list. They often advertise events in the Georgia Bulletin and the group is open to any single parent, divorced or separated adult.

"Twenty-five percent of members aren't from St. Ann's." Vince said. He hopes that some feel called to begin this ministry in other parishes around the Archdiocese. He has seen people find a supportive community elsewhere and then fall away from the Catholic Church. But "they didn't realize what they were walking away from."

Find out more about *Embrace* by visiting their website at [www.embracedbythechurch.com](http://www.embracedbythechurch.com) or e-mail Vince Frese at [vfrese@yahoo.com](mailto:vfrese@yahoo.com) for more information.

*You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
Say to the LORD, "My refuge and fortress, my God in whom I trust."*

*Psalm 91, 1-2*

## **Two For You (cont.)**

*(Continued from page 1)*

as a means to connect Catholics in our Archdiocese searching for help with all the support available to them in their parish.

New features include Guidelines for the Engaged, a Spanish language page, a Clergy Resource section, information about the 50th and 60th Marriage Anniver-

sary Mass, new information links and an entire section for Helping, Healing and Transition. This last section includes information on bereavement, divorce, domestic violence, addictions and counseling.

We hope to continue adding new items and features, so your feedback will be so important. Please take a look and let us know what you think.

# Support Groups for the Separated and Divorced

*Note: This list was updated in January 2008. Always call the parish first to confirm time, date and location of the meeting, or to register if needed. Most support groups are open to all; you do not have to be a member of the parish.*

1. **Holy Spirit Catholic Church**, 4465 Northside Dr. NW, Atlanta (404-252-4513): New on-going support group for anyone dealing with loss begins Wednesday February 6, 2008. Contact Deacon Bill McCarthy at [deaconbill@hscatatl.com](mailto:deaconbill@hscatatl.com) or ext. 32.
2. **St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church**, 7171 Glenridge Dr., NE, Atlanta (770-394-3896): *Separated, Widowed and Divorced Group* meets every first and third Tuesday night from 7:30-9:00PM in room 233, Ministry Building. Ongoing group, new members can come to any group. Call Mary Lou Friedly at 770-424-6150.
3. **St. Theresa Catholic Church**, 4401 Prestley Mill Rd., Douglasville (770-489-7115): A nine week program based on *A Time for Healing* will be offered periodically throughout the year. Contact the parish for more information.
4. **Catholic Church of St. Monica**, 1700 Buford Highway, Duluth (678-584-9947): *Seeking Oneself, Understanding Loss (SOUL)*. Seeking Oneself, 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. Contact Patrick Klein, the Director of Adult Education and Faith Formation at ext. 12 or [patrick.klein@saintmonicas.com](mailto:patrick.klein@saintmonicas.com) to get more information, register for future groups and/or if you have need for immediate support.
5. **Prince of Peace Catholic Church**, 6439 Spout Springs Road, Flowery Branch (770-945-2244) Using the Divorce Care program, this support group meets weekly on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9:00PM for viewing the video series followed by discussion and support. All are welcome and participants can join at any time. Clergy discussion sessions also held periodically. Call Mary Armento at 770-967-1749 or David Fogarty at 770-843-1638 for more information. Child care is available.
6. **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.
7. **St. Joseph Catholic Church**, 87 Lacy St., Marietta (770-422-5633): Open-ended support group, that meets every Thursday at 7PM in the PMC Building. Contact the parish for more information.
8. **St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church**, 3 Village Rd., Newnan (770-253-1888): An eight week series using the *Divorce and Beyond* program. The group closes to new members after the second meeting of the series. Call Sharon Burke at 770-317-7990 for more information. You can also call the parish for information about upcoming groups or if you need immediate support.
9. **Holy Trinity Catholic Church**, 101 Walt Banks Road, Peachtree City (770-487-7672): An eight week series using the *Divorce and Beyond* program will be offered two times per year. Please call the parish for more information and to register.
10. **Multiple location programs:** *Divorced, Catholic, Now What?* (Formerly known as *Journey of Hope*), is a program developed by Lisa Duffy, a parishioner of St. Peter Chanel. The series consists of 16 weekly sessions with separate groups for men and women. The groups are held at various parishes in the archdiocese. Registration closes to new members after the first several meetings. Call 404-493-2190 for information, location and registration. A book and DVD program is now available for in-home use. Visit [www.divorcedcatholic.com](http://www.divorcedcatholic.com) for more information.

*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.*

## Bereavement Ministry Training Well Attended

Forty people attended the two day training presented by the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved (NCMB) last November 10 and 11th. The training was sponsored by the Family Life Office here at the Catholic Center. The group represented twenty-two parishes in the Archdiocese of Atlanta and two from the Diocese of

Savannah. At the end of the second day, lay volunteers, parish staff and deacons who completed the training were commissioned as ministry leaders and trainers of the Ministry of Consolation program developed by the NCMB. Congratulations to you all and thank you for your commitment to this ministry.

Archdiocese of Atlanta  
Family Life Office

The Catholic Center  
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## Generation to Generation

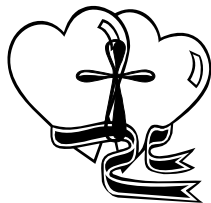
Since 2002, Beloit College in Wisconsin has made their MINDSET LIST® to remind faculty that each generation's frame of reference will differ from the one before.

On average, American men marry at age twenty-eight and women at twenty-five. Looking back on the MINDSET LIST written about those born in 1980 to 1983 can be an eye-opening experience. If you work in marriage preparation ministry, take a look at the world through their eyes. Here are some excerpts:

\*\*\*\*\*

1. The expression "you sound like a broken record" means nothing to them.
2. Most have never seen a TV set with only 13 channels, nor a black & white TV. They can't fathom what it was like not having a remote control.
3. The "Tonight Show" has always been with Jay Leno.
4. Oprah has always been a national institution.
5. Ron Howard and Rob Reiner have always been balding older film directors.
6. The Vietnam War is as ancient history to them as WWI and WWII or even the Civil War.
7. The Kennedy tragedy was a plane crash, not an assassination.
8. There have always been ATM machines.
9. There has always been a national holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr.
10. They never heard "I'd walk a mile for a Camel".
11. There has always been MTV.
12. Thongs no longer just come in pairs and slide between the toes.
13. There have always been personal computers.
14. They have always had access to email. They have probably never used carbon paper and do not know what cc and bcc mean.
15. Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave.
16. There has always been a hole in the ozone layer.
17. Tylenol has always been impossible to open.
18. Artificial hearts have always been ticking.
19. Their lifetime has always included AIDS.
20. They feel more danger from having sex and being in school than from possible nuclear war.
21. Most of them know someone who was born with the help of a test tube.
22. We have always been able to reproduce DNA in the laboratory.
23. With a life expectancy of 77 years, they can anticipate living until about 2057 and 2060, respectively.

# The Volunteer News



## Thanks for 2007!



Our many thanks for your ministry to the engaged in 2007. You made such a difference in the lives of so many couples last year when you presented at your workshops.

For those who present at the PreCana workshops at the Catholic Center, you served seven hundred and forty-eight couples. With those

that had to attend as a single, that equals one-thousand, five hundred and ten people in twenty-one workshops.

Not quite half of the couples attending, forty-seven percent, were both Catholics. Just slightly fewer, or forty-five percent of the total, were couples with a Catholic engaged to a Christian. The remaining eight percent were comprised of a Catholic marrying someone of a non-Christian faith or of no faith tradition.

On average, both men and women were most likely to

be twenty-six to thirty years old, although the twenty-one to twenty-five year old range was almost as likely for the women.

And here are some findings from some more specialized marriage preparation programs:

Deacon Fred and Connie Sambrone served eighteen couples and one single gentleman in the African-American Marriage Program. While these couples were also most likely to be between twenty-six and thirty years old, sixty-one percent were interchurch couples, where a Catholic was marrying a person from another Christian denomination.

The ReMarriage workshop, for those couples where one or both have lost a spouse through death or divorce, is presented at the Catholic Center by a licensed therapist eleven times a year. Eighty-eight couples attended in 2007. They were much more likely to both be Catholic (sixty-five percent) and older than couples attending PreCana. Seventy-five percent of the couples would share children in their new family.

## Marriage Enrichment to Try

### ***Knee to Knee -*** **Share Your Dream**

Most of us have dreams or wishes that may never become reality but are close to our heart. Trusting our partner with a secret longing may feel risky or we may simply never have considered doing so because, after all, it's only a dream! Sharing dreams can draw us closer together and sometimes even help us to work together to make a dream come true. The important thing to realize, however, is that there is no expectation that sharing the dream means it has to become reality, so we need not be afraid to listen or to share.



To share your dream do either of the following:

1. Take a sheet of paper and some markers or crayons and simply draw a representation of your dream. (You are not doing it for an art exhibition so it doesn't have to look good and you can always explain it to your spouse.) Take it in turns to share your drawing.
2. Write a letter to your spouse in which you share your dream, your wish and some of the thoughts and feelings that go with it. Read each other's letters and talk about each in turn.

*\*Knee to Knee exercises are designed for couples to use to promote communication and understanding.*

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# Happy Anniversary to You! 🎵



Join us in wishing our volunteer clergy and couples well on the anniversary of their vocations celebrated in January through April 2008. Thank you for the great example you give!

## Ordinations:

Deacon Bruce Reed

## Marriages:

Deacon Fred and Connie Sambrone

Bill and Barbara Schwendler

Bruce and Joyce Reed

Dave and Janice Capano

Larry and Lynn Crutchfield

Jim and Diane Dooley

*Please let us know if we missed your anniversary.*

## Hellos and Good-Byes and Congratulations

- \* AAMP Goes on the Road! We were delighted to hear that Deacon Fred and Connie Sambrone were invited to present their marriage enrichment workshop at St. Agnes and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Churches in the Diocese of Cleveland in late 2007. They report a very good reception and will likely return for a repeat performance.



And the young adult community of Our Lady of Lourdes here in the archdiocese of Atlanta has asked them to present a “pre-pre-marriage” workshop for their group. It seems the word might be out about our “best-kept secret”.

- \* Fr. Stewart Wilber has graduated with a Master of Social Work degree from Fordham University in New York and is back in our archdiocese to stay. Currently he is serving as administrator of St. Peter the Rock parish in The Rock, Georgia and counseling clients at the Village of St. Joseph offices in Midtown. We are so glad he has agreed to continue presenting PreCana. Welcome back, Fr. Stewart!
- \* Welcome to our newest Finance presenter, Charlene McNabb. Charlene, a certified public accountant, is also married to Deacon Scott McNabb and mom to their two grown children, so she can share some

great stories as well as her professional expertise. Welcome Charlene, we're so glad you're here!

- \* We are looking forward to the return of Fr. Kevin Hardegan to PreCana at the Catholic Center. After a short stint as presenter at the parish PreCana of St. Joseph in Marietta and then here at the Catholic Center, it has been five years and many varied assignments around the Archdiocese until we could welcome him back. We are looking forward to his rejoining the presenting team this summer. And as he is currently serving as pastor of St. Peter's in LaGrange, we are very glad the mileage won't deter him. Welcome back Fr. Kevin!
- \* We said a sad goodbye to Fr. Linus DeSantis last summer after he was reassigned. He now resides in New York state. His ministry to the engaged and to young adults here was full of such love and energy that he will be sorely missed by all of us in the Archdiocese of Atlanta.
- \* Good-bye to Kimmy and Blayne Hunt who presented Love, Life and Sexuality in PreCana. Thank you for your ministry to the engaged!



## Around the Archdiocese



**Save the Date: The 2008 Eucharistic Congress** will be held on June 20th and 21st at the Georgia International Conven-

tion Center. This event is free and does not require tickets. Check [www.archatl.com/congress/](http://www.archatl.com/congress/) for more information.

## 2008 NACFLM Annual Conference in San Francisco

It's a little farther away than it was in 2006, when the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers annual conference was held here in Atlanta, but just in case you can travel... The 2008 national conference, *Bridging Families and Church*, will be held on June 30th

through July 2nd at the San Francisco Hilton. The 12th annual Smart Marriages/Happy Families conference will follow. Call NACFLM at (937) 431-5443 or go to their website at [www.nacflm.org](http://www.nacflm.org).