



Marriage and Family Life News

ADVENT 2009

NEWSLETTER

Please pray for our couples who will be attending Engaged Encounter Feb. 19-21 and Marriage Encounter Feb. 12-14



Visit us on-line at www.archden.org/marriage

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Marriage;

Love and Life in the Divine Plan

We are excited that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has publishing their pastoral letter on marriage this November 2009 and have put more emphasis on this important Sacrament recently through the [“foryourmarriage.org”](http://foryourmarriage.org) website. We encourage all to view the “For Your Marriage” website and go to the USCCB website (to download, read, purchase the letter in booklet form, and incorporate the Pastoral Letter into our daily lives.

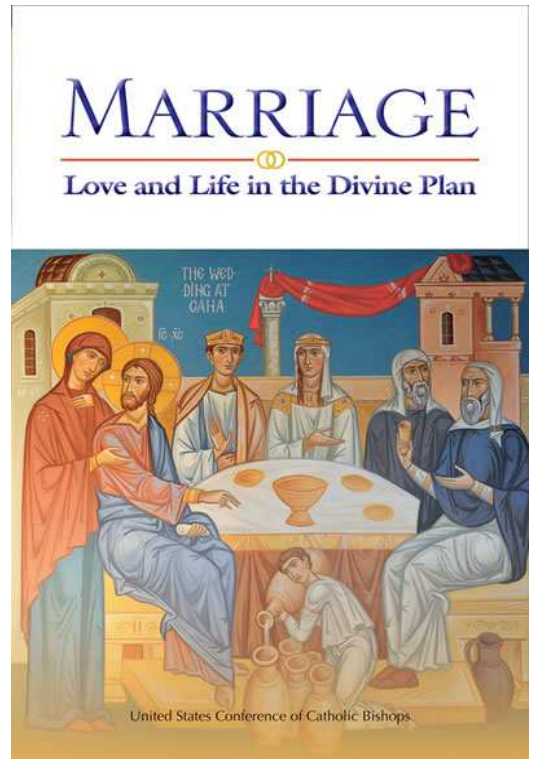
The pastoral is also attached here as a PDF file.

Twenty eight years ago, Worldwide Marriage Encounter began encouraging a celebration of marriage on the second Sunday of February.

In 1983 it was designated World Marriage Day as a day to honor the husband and wife as head of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.

It is especially exciting to announce that World Marriage Day 2010 will be on February 14 - Saint Valentine’s Day!

We hope every parish will celebrate this day in simple or elaborate ways. Whatever is done will bring the significance of the Sacrament of Marriage to center



stage for one important day and is most appreciated.





Gaudete Sunday

You have noticed the rose-colored candle in the Advent wreath, but do you know why one is rose while the others are purple? The color rose is used liturgically, and it represents joy. Halfway through the season of Advent, we express the joyful aspect of anticipating the Lord's coming. You can hear the theme of joy and rejoicing throughout the readings and prayers in the Mass.

The third Sunday in Advent was nicknamed "Gaudete Sunday" long ago. Gaudete means 'rejoice!' in Latin, and is the first word in the Latin Mass for that day. If you look up the "entrance antiphon" in a missalette, you will see that it starts out: "Rejoice in the Lord always!" In the Latin that would read Gaudete in Domino semper! Today we usually sing an opening hymn rather than recite or chant the entrance antiphon, but the theme of rejoicing is no less conspicuous now on Gaudete Sunday than in the past.

Is there a counterpart to Gaudete Sunday in Lent? Yes, there is. Halfway through Lent we celebrate what is traditionally called "Laetare Sunday." As in Advent, we take a mid-term break from the somberness of the season for joyous anticipation. Laetare Sunday also takes its name from the entrance antiphon of the day, whose first word is a Latin synonym also meaning "rejoice" or "be joyful." This is the other time you may see liturgical use of the color rose.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & RESOURCES

Marriage Preparation Workshops

The Office of Marriage and Family Life is seeking qualified couples who are willing to dedicate an hour of their time, two Saturdays per year, to speak to our engaged couples at our "God's Plan For A Joy Filled Marriage" workshops.

Sharing with couples the life lessons you have learned about Christian marriage is not only a wonderful act of stewardship, but may be a blessing to your marriage as well.

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone; the Lord is very near.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and the peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your heart and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

Family Retreat!

Dec.31-Jan. 2

Don't miss out on the BEST Family New Year's Event in Colorado!

Reserve your room today:
303.715.3223
Space is limited.

St. Malo Retreat Center

10758 State Hwy 7
Allenspark, CO 80510
www.saintmalo.org



Creighton Practitioners for Denver!

In January, FertilityCare Services of Denver will host their second Practitioner Education Program for new Creighton Practitioners. Ten women will participate in the training series from January 8th-16th at the John Paul II Center. This eight day education series will begin the 13 month program for the women before being certified as Creighton Practitioners. For more information on the Creighton Model System, one of the methods of Natural Family Planning offered in the Archdiocese of Denver, please visit their website:

www.creightonmodel.com

Want to strengthen your marriage?

Marriage Encounter's Mission of renewal in the church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.



Upcoming Marriage Encounter Weekends:

Feb 12-14

Contact Pete & Danielle Smith (303) 627-4411

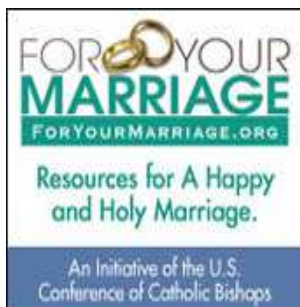
or smittenpet@msn.com

Advent and Christmas Resources

The U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has created a Website with suggestions for daily prayer, reading, reflection and action throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Website:

www.foryourmarriage.org



SAVE THE DATE!



ROCKY MOUNTAIN
CATHOLIC MEN'S
CONFERENCE

Saturday, March
20, 2010 from
8:00am to 4:30pm

Pikes Peak Center
Colorado Springs •
Colorado

Co-sponsored by
the dioceses of
Pueblo and Colo-
rado Springs and
the Archdiocese of
Denver.

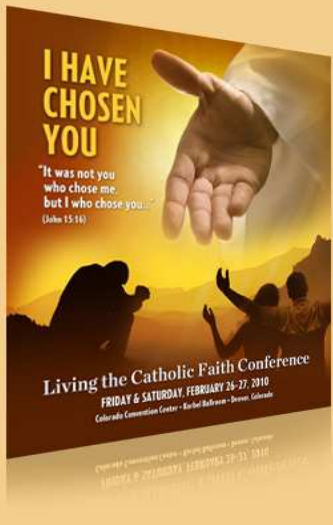
Register now at:

www.RockyMountainCatholicMensConference.com

Living the Catholic Faith Conference

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26-27, 2010

Colorado Convention Center • Korbel Ballroom • Denver, Colorado



God has called *each* and *every* Catholic - whether single or married, consecrated or lay - to a special mission. Only you can complete it. Do you choose to accept it? What's holding you back?

The theme of this year's Living the Catholic Faith Conference is "**I have chosen you,**" based on scripture verse John 15:16. Keynotes and workshops will offer attendees a variety of reflections on both the challenges and joys felt in answering and then following the will of God.

Keynote speakers include **Dr. Tim Gray**, president of Denver's Augustine Institute and a nationally renowned expert on biblical history; **Vallimar Jansen**, a Catholic dramatist renowned for her ability to infuse *life* back into the Scriptures; and **Dr. Janet Smith**, one of the Church's leading experts on the beauty of human sexuality, Christian marriage and the secrets to a healthy family.

For a special treat, don't miss Saturday's movie screening of *The Human Experience*, winner of over 18 film festival awards. This **unforgettable documentary** asks the question: "What does it mean to be human?" Discover the timeless story of a band of brothers, searching for answers through a breathtaking adventure around the world. A Q&A Panel Discussion will immediately follow the screening, featuring Producer Joe Campo and lead actor Jeffrey Azize.

For more information please visit the following website: <http://archden.org/lcfc2010/>

Marriage Communication Workshops

The Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception will host a Free Marriage Workshop in the Cathedral Room on January 30, 2010 from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Lunch will be provided. The workshop is sponsored by the Colorado Healthy Marriage Project. It is designed to be an enjoyable, skills building workshop for married couples. The workshop will focus on Communications, Keeping Fun in the Marriage, Resolving Problems and many other topics. Engaged couples are also welcome to attend. Visit www.marry-well.org or call (720) 488-8888 to register or obtain more information. The Cathedral Basilica is located at 1530 Logan Street in Denver.

St. Ignatius Loyola will host a Free Marriage Workshop in Brady Hall on January 23, 2010 from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Lunch will be provided. The workshop is sponsored by the Colorado Healthy Marriage Project. It is designed to be an enjoyable, skills building workshop for married couples. The workshop will focus on Communications, Keeping Fun in the Marriage, Resolving Problems and many other topics. Engaged couples are also welcome to attend. Visit www.marry-well.org or call (720) 488-8888 to register or obtain more information. St. Ignatius Loyola is located at 2301 York Street in Denver.



Should the Church be Concerned About Same-Sex Marriage?

Questions & Answers



To Read this pamphlet please see our website. To place copies in a tract rack, please talk to your Pastor and call the Office of Marriage & Family Life.

Sign the Manhattan Declaration!

We invite you to join with other Christians across the nation who support the sanctity of life, traditional marriage and religious liberty by endorsing the Manhattan Declaration.

Throughout the centuries, God has graciously provided His people with teachers and prophetic voices who apply His word to the critical issues of the day and who lead their hearers to embrace His life-giving authority and counsel in the midst of cultural madness. The Manhattan Declaration extends and honors that tradition, and we urge you to join us in affirming it. The Manhattan Declaration addresses with urgent eloquence the devaluation of human life, the corruption of marriage, and the erosion of religious liberty. With careful instruction, it brings light and clarity to all who read it. We trust that millions of believers will sign it, that countless others will be drawn or driven to give it fair consideration, and that our society will be changed by its strong yet sweetly reasonable message.

The Manhattan Declaration was released Friday, November 20, 2009, at a press conference in Washington D.C. It bears the signatures of many religious leaders, but this is just the beginning. The list of supports will grow dramatically in a short time and those who most need to hear this word will not be able to escape or downplay it. So please endorse this document by your signature and spread the word to others who might endorse it as well. Thank you.

Please visit the following website for the Manhattan Declaration and lend your name to those who have already signed: www.manhattandeclaration.org

Who signed the Manhattan Declaration?

Four of the original 145 signatories are *Touchstone* senior editors: Robert P. George, James Kushiner, Russell D. Moore, and Patrick Henry Reardon. Robert George, Charles Colson, and Timothy George were the major drafters of the Declaration.

In addition to Archbishop Chaput, other Roman Catholic and (7) Orthodox signers, there are Baptists, Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterian/Reformed, Church of God in Christ, and many others. 22 Bishops signed, including: 14 Roman Catholic Bishops (Chaput, Cordileone, Dolan, Kurtz, Madia, Malone, Myers, Nuamann, Nienstedt, Olmsted, Rigali, Sheridan, Wuerl, and Zubik.) 2 Eastern Orthodox Bishops: Metropolitan Jonah (OCA) and Bishop Basil (Antiochian)

Heads (20) and faculty members (19) of Seminaries, Colleges and Universities: e.g. Albert Mohler, David Dockery, Robert Sloan, Duane Litfin, J. I. Packer, Tom Oden, Peter Kreeft, Cornelius Plantinga
46 Leaders of various ministries, associations, policy institutes and think tanks: e.g. Prison Fellowship Ministries, National Association of Evangelicals, Family Research Council, Institute for Marriage and Public Policy, Alliance Defense Fund, e.g. Charles Colson, Rav Zacharias, Maggie Gallagher, Ron Sider.

22 Pastors, 10 Publishers (Christianity Today, First Things, Kairos Journal, Touchstone, and World Magazine)

Various signers who are authors (e.g. Dinesh D'Souza) or work in other media or business.

FIRST THINGS

THE JOURNAL OF RELIGION, CULTURE, AND PUBLIC LIFE

Safe Schools Czar Kevin Jennings was the founder, and for many years, Executive Director of an organization called the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). GLSEN started essentially as Jennings' personal project and grew to become the culmination of his life's work. And he was chosen by President Obama to be the nation's Safe Schools Czar primarily *because* he had founded and led GLSEN.

Read more here. *Warning: The following material is very explicit.*

<http://gatewaypundit.firstthings.com/2009/12/breaking-obamas-safe-schools-czar-is-promoting-porn-in-the-classroom-kevin-jennings-and-the-glsen-reading-list/>

[Please contact your Representative urging the removal of President Obama's Safe School Czar Kevin Jennings](#)

Was The Rev. Know It All Having a Bad Day?

This article appeared in the weekly parish bulletin column of St. Lambert's Church in Skokie, IL. The author is The Rev. Know It All" " the resident apologetics personality of the pastor Fr. Richard Simon.

Dear Rev. Know it all, I visited your church once and am thinking about having my wedding there. How long is your main aisle? Mary O'burne

Dear Mary,

I am often asked that question, and never quite understand it. Are brides curious about the length of the aisle because they think a longer aisle may give them a few more minutes to back out of the whole thing? Or, as I suspect, does a long aisle prolong the glorious promenade of which a young girl dreams as she thumbs through bridal magazine as she contemplates her special day, when all eyes focus on her as she approaches her enchanted prince and all the world thinks she's gorgeous and knows that she has bagged her man just as surely as a Wisconsin bricklayer bags a deer and ties it onto the roof of his pick up truck? I have certainly seen a few grooms who look like a frightened deer caught in the headlights of an oncoming truck.

A Marriage Blessing

We thank You, O God, for the love You have implanted in our hearts. May it always inspire us to be kind in our words, considerate of feelings, and concerned for each other's needs and wishes.

Help us to be understanding and forgiving of human weaknesses and failings.

Increase our faith and trust in You and may Your prudence guide our life and love.

Bless our marriage, O God, with peace and happiness, and make our Love fruitful for Your glory and our joy both here and in eternity.

Why is it that weddings cause people to spend so much time, energy and money? And more money.

The average American wedding costs almost \$29,000, according to “The Wedding Report”, a market research publication. \$29,000!” Oh, by the by, the usual donation to the church is about \$200.00. That \$200 goes to the church, not to the priest. The usual gift to the priest is a hearty handclasp. The usual cost of the photographer is \$2,000.00. All this tells me that the photographs are one hundred times more important than the grace of the sacrament, in most peoples’ estimation. The usual fee for the DJ is \$1,500.00. I am consoled by this. It means that painful, occasionally obscene music loud enough to cause brain damage is only 75 times more important than the grace of the sacrament.

You must be thinking why is this guy so down on weddings? I am down on some weddings because I am very “up” on the sacrament of matrimony and really in favor of marriage. That’s why the modern method of marrying and the wedding industry make me crazy. They militate against marriage.

Here is the heart of my complaint. **IT IS STUPID TO SPEND MORE TIME AND MONEY PREPARING FOR THE WEDDING THAN YOU DO PREPARING FOR THE MARRIAGE!!!** I have known people who are still paying the credit card bills generated by the wedding years after the marriage is over.

The Modern Method of Marriage, a Reprise. The following is taken from my own experiences and things people have told me (outside of confession, you’ll be glad to know.) Here goes.

A young man and a young woman meet and have a few dates. They go for a weekend at a bed and breakfast where they bed one another, and then have breakfast. If he isn’t too much of a jerk and she isn’t too picky, they are then an item. She goes to the doctor gets a prescription and goes on to a more permanent form of birth control. At some time during this stage, the uncomfortable meeting with the parents happens. Everyone is polite and “supportive.” Secretly the father of the young woman, who knows exactly what’s going on, contemplates buying a gun and the mother of the young man begins gossiping with whoever will listen about how her little boy could do better.

After a while, if things hold up, they begin to have the conversation about taking their relationship to the “next level” by which they mean shacking up, as we used to call it. Now, I think it’s called moving in together.

Mom and Dad buy housewarming gifts in an attempt to, once again, be supportive. They don’t want their little dears to hate them and besides, it’s what everyone is doing these days, so it can’t be wrong. They have vague thoughts about getting married at that point and mom explains to grandma and to friends at church that they are just doing it to save money for the wedding. At this stage an engagement ring may appear. At some point, when they think about getting the house and the kids, because that’s what you do, they decide to have the wedding. They rent the hall and then go see the priest. He tells them there are four other weddings that day and they respond, “But we’ve rented the hall already.”

Someone suggests a garden wedding if the church is occupied. The priest says we can’t do garden weddings. (More on this later.) The young couple begins to complain about how narrow minded the Church is with all these rules and regulations. They eventually pick a date. Then the bottom drops out.

It seems the groom is not Catholic. He was baptized in the First Reformed Church of the Druids, though he never practiced. This means there must be a dispensation for the marriage, another irritating Catholic invention, and the wedding date cannot be confirmed until the dispensation is received. The bride goes back to her doctor, this time for a prescription for valium. Her mother joins her on this visit. Finally the dispensation is granted, the groom’s druid will do one of the readings at the wedding, the loans are taken out, and the banns are published.

Then there is the rehearsal and rehearsal dinner. The best man comes to the rehearsal drunk out of his mind, the groom only slightly tipsy. The bride is furious at everyone for some reason known to her alone. Probably because the groom is far more interested in drinking and watching the football game on his hand held computer thing than he is in gazing lovingly into her eyes in anticipation of the great day. In fact they haven't been, well... friendly in weeks. It is, after all, football season.

The special day comes, the best man is still drunk, the groom is hung over, no one knew about that interesting tattoo that the maid of honor had way low on her back, now revealed by the plunging back of her dress that is held up only by wishful thinking. Grandma, upon reading the logo of the maid of honor's tattoo, has fainted.

Somewhere in all this the vows are exchanged, and quite a few of the wedding party receive their first Holy Communion that day, however one of the ushers puts the host in his suit pocket not having a clue what it is. (This actually has happened to me twice.) The pictures have been taken. The noise level in the church reaches that of an English soccer match after the riot has broken out. The children are jumping off the altar and the priest is scowling at everyone. Now on to the pictures in the forest preserve, a "must" at every wedding. There the wedding party is attacked by mosquitoes, one of the children falls into the lagoon and the bride is having a hard time smiling for the photos. The best man passes out. On to the reception.

The bride loses it because the shade of fuchsia in the floral center pieces clashes with the shade of fuchsia in the wedding party's outfit. The groom adjourns to the bar where the game is on the television. The wedding dinner is served as music is played at a mind numbing volume. Grandma is better now. She has turned off her hearing aid. The priest is seated with the pious relatives in plaid suit coats and leaves shortly after the grace before meals. The best man makes the toast which drones on about how he loves the groom and one begins to wonder. The college roommate/maid of honor does the same for the bride, going on for fifteen minutes about how she knew the bride would find eternal marital bliss the moment she met her in the third grade and they have been like sisters ever since.

Then at some point, there is a video presentation of embarrassing photos not unlike the ones that are now shown at wakes. The bar opens up again. The music reaches levels that cause blood to drip from some peoples' nose and ears. The joyous event ends with the bride and groom being the last to leave the hall. They are slow to go up to the room they have rented in the hotel because nothing new or beautiful awaits them there. The groom promptly falls asleep, being heavily sedated already, and, as he snores away, with his shoes still on, our blushing bride, having shed her dress of virginal white, thinks back on this day, her special day, the most important day in her life, the day she has dreamt of since she was a little girl.

They will stay an extra day at the hotel, but cannot afford the time or money to go on a honeymoon because on Monday they will both be back at work in order to pay off the colossal bill that their special day has incurred. For some reason, the bride is depressed. Perhaps she is realizing that the high point of her life is now past and the rest of it will be spent with the lump that is now snoring beside her with whom she has never really had a serious conversation, except about the proper shade of fuchsia for the floral centerpieces. So it is that we celebrate the marriage of Christ and His Church in these enlightened and tolerant times.

Remember, none of these things happened at your wedding, thank God and don't think from reading this that I am down on marriage or even weddings. I love a wedding celebration when there is something to celebrate. Also, it is never too late to begin again by taking Christ and His gospel seriously.

PLEASE SPEND MORE TIME AND MONEY PREPARING FOR THE MARRIAGE THAN YOU DO PREPARING FOR THE WEDDING.

Yours,

The Rev, Know it all

P.S. Garden weddings. They look good in all the bridal magazines but they are just opportunities to feed biting insects and suffer from sunburn. It is however amusing to watch the bridesmaids sinking in the mud as they try, after a few margaritas to maneuver the newly laid sod in spiked heels. The bride is generally exhausted from not having slept for three weeks as she worries about the weather reports which are promising a 50 percent chance of typhoons and earthquakes that day. And destination weddings. Don't get me started on Destination Weddings! You want to be married with just your closest friends on a beach in Maui. That means that Grandma can't go because she hasn't flown since the Hindenburg Disaster, and is thinking of cutting you out of the will, and all the friends and relatives who aren't with you on the beach in Maui realize they aren't very close to you after all. And I haven't a clue how long the aisle is here at St. Dymphna's.

Ann Walker is Leaving!

In January Ann Walker will be leaving the Office of Marriage and Family Life to enter the sacred vocation of motherhood.

Please pray for Ann and Tyson and the safe arrival of their first child. And please extend your gratitude to her for all her years of faithful service.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a coordinator for the Office of Marriage and Family Life, that we may receive a faithful person, who will care for your people and equip others to live a joy filled marriage; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen..

OFFICE OF MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE

PHIL A WEBB Jr., DIRECTOR, 303-715-3160 e-mail: phil.webb@archden.org

ANN WALKER, COORDINATOR, 303-715-3259 e-mail: ann.walker@archden.org