



Marriage and Family Life News

AUGUST 2009

NEWSLETTER

Faith Finances Workshop

Sponsored by the Office of Marriage & Family Life & Office of Social Ministry

Please pray for our engaged couples who will be attending Engaged Encounter at St. Malo, August 14-16

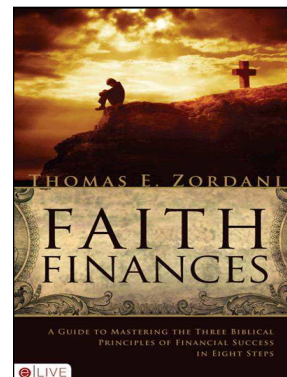


The Widow's Mite by Gustave Dore
Mark 12:41-44

Faith Finances is about applying God's word to personal finances and mastering the three principles to biblical finances:
Giving, Managing, and Increase

After his own personal financial crisis followed by much study of the Scriptures, Catholic author, Thomas Zordani, wrote this book to help others discover the same explanation that he had there. "If I was incapable of handling what little money I had, there would be no way I could possibly deserve or handle more. It wasn't until I changed my heart and my thinking, and applied timeless stewardship principles found in Holy Scripture that my finances began to change."

Space is limited
RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW!
303-715-3160



Saturday, September 26th
9:00am - 5:00pm
John Paul II Center
1300 S. Steele Street
Denver CO, 80210
Room 123/125
****Free Event****



HELP YOUR PARISH LOWER THE DIVORCE RATE

Covenant of Love is a parish based marriage ministry to help parishes reduce their divorce rate by renewing the vocation of marriage in the lives of married couples.

Covenant of Love provides a framework for parishes to accomplish this mission by building up marriages through the Cove-

nant of Love Marriage Group, a monthly gathering for engaged and married couples. The marriage Group will form leaders to implement other marriage ministries in the parish to mentor engaged and married couples.

The Alexander House, which created the Covenant of Love Marriage Ministry, provides all of the materials and training required for a team of lay leaders

to implement the ministry with minimal participation from the pastor and parish staff.

You can learn more about how to bring Covenant of Love to your parish by attending an

Information Conference Call:

Monday, August 10th

8pm Central Time

To register contact: Jeremy Rohr
763-463-9613

Jeremy@thealexanderhouse.org

Denver Covenant of Love contacts: Matt & Mindy Dalton
303-840-2772

www.covenantoflove.org

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

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You're OK, Kid!



Ed and Eddie Reinhardt

Are you looking for someone to inspire your parishioners? Well look no further than Ed Reinhardt, author of "You're OK, Kid!" and his son Eddie.

Ed Reinhardt and his son, Eddie, share their journey of anguish, love and empowerment and show us how ordinary individuals can do extraordinary things. Eddie was a member of Coach Bill McCartney's first recruiting class at the University of Colorado. He was 2nd leading pass receiver in the nation with a G.P.A of 3.5 when he suffered a life changing brain injury during a football game. For 62 days, Eddie floated between life and death in a coma. His parents have assisted him in his rehabilitation for the past 20 years.

This amazing account of one family's hopes, dreams and fierce struggles shows the importance of a strong marriage and the irreplaceable role of the father. You can't afford to miss this!

For more information on how to bring Ed and Eddie Reinhardt to your parish, call 303-798-1273 or visit their website at <http://youreokkid.com>



Couple renewing their wedding vows at the 2008 Anniversary Mass

Archbishop's Annual Anniversary Mass October 3rd, 2009

This annual mass celebrated by Archbishop Chaput provides an opportunity for the archdiocese to recognize the gift of marriage and celebrate those who are commemorating 25th, 50th, and 50-plus years of married life.

This year's mass will be held Saturday, October 3, 2009 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, located at 1530 Logan Street in Denver.

For registration information and announcements for your parish bulletin, please call the Office of Marriage and Family Life at (303) 715-3259.



Join the **TWO MILLION FOR MARRIAGE CAMPAIGN** to STOP President Obama and Congress from repealing the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Your signature will let our nation's leaders know that you believe marriage is a man and woman only.

[Sign Here
www.twomillionformarriage.com](http://www.twomillionformarriage.com)



HEALTHY MARRIAGE PROJECT

The WAIT Training Colorado Healthy Marriage Project (CHMP) is a 5-year, statewide initiative to provide leadership, education and support for healthy marriages in Colorado. Their goal is to create a societal environment that values marriage and promotes the formation of healthy families.

The initiative is a collaborative effort that coordinates the energy, expertise and passion of many community organizations including African American and Hispanic organizations, religious congregations, the Colorado Department of Human Services, local wellness and health organizations, marriage researchers, school districts and faith/community-based youth serving agencies.

The HMP offers free day long Relationship Communications workshops for married couples based on PREP materials. PREP, Inc. is a company formed by Dr. Howard Markman and Dr. Scott Stanley to provide a vehicle for marital research and the dissemination of training and products based on PREP and university based marital research. The Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program (PREP™) is a research-based approach to teaching couples how to communicate effectively, work as a team to solve problems, manage conflicts without damaging closeness, and preserve and enhance commitment and friendship. The PREP Approach is based on over 25 years of research in the field of marital health and success, with much of the specific research conducted at the University of Denver over the past 20+ years.

Mr. Gregory J. De Cuir, from Cur d Ars Catholic Church, teaches these workshops and would like to bring one to your parish to help strengthen Catholic marriages. It is a refreshing day of exploring your relationship and learning some new communication skills that will increase our chances of a fulfilling marriage. For more information please call Gregory at 303-910-5160.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & RESOURCES

Creighton FertilityCare Practitioner Information Night

We invite you to learn more about becoming a Creighton Model FertilityCare Practitioner. The evening will consist of an explanation of the education program, a discussion of the work of a practitioner and a presentation by our medical consultants. Several practitioners and our medical consultants will be on hand to answer questions.

Sunday, September 13, 2009
Our Lady of Loreto parish - Chapel of the Word Room
(upstairs)
18000 E. Arapahoe Road, Foxfield, CO 80016

7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
light appetizers and wine will be served

Please r.s.v.p. for this event to Carrie Keating
303-471-8624
carriekeating@comcast.net

Couple to Couple League launches new Spanish NFP Teacher Training!

Cincinnati, OH (July 22, 2009) - The Couple to Couple League (CCL) has **opened its new, online Spanish teacher training program this week**, a move which continues the rollout of its updated Natural Family Planning (NFP) program begun several years ago. The launch of this training program brings **high quality, no-cost Spanish-language training for NFP teachers to all dioceses in the U.S.**

The teacher training program in Spanish has been opened several months ahead of the anticipated release of the Spanish teaching materials in order to allow Teaching Couples time to complete their training. The Spanish student manual and teaching materials are slated to be available in the Fall of 2009.

CCL's teacher training is largely online and free. After acceptance into the program, couples work at their own pace through a series of six modules: Introduction, Management, Theological Thought of John Paul II, NFP Methodology, Transition Times, and Presentation. Each module is composed of a series of courses that present a particular set of topics and/or skills. Some courses have required readings; others involve some practical exercises (i.e., chart interpretation, writing a witness talk). Most of the courses culminate with tests, which require a particular passing score in order to move forward. At any point in the training, couples may receive assistance from CCL Central.

For more information on CCL's Teacher Training Program in general, visit www.ccli.org/learn/teach/index.php. To speak to someone about how CCL can help your diocese with Spanish NFP service, contact [Silvia Schmidt](mailto:Silvia.Schmidt@CCL.org) at 800-745-8252, ext. 3102.

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:

September 18-20 St. Malo Retreat Center
 November 6-8 Embassy Suites

Contact Pete & Danielle Smith (303) 627-4411

or smittenpet@msn.com

New Coordinating Couple for Retrouvaille

We are happy to announce that Jim & Karen (Bear) Intriglia will be the new Coordinating Couple for Retrouvaille.

We are also grateful for the faithful service of Bill and Arlene Newlin who served many years as the Coordinating Couple, and who will remain as the Registration Couple.

Please keep the Sept. 25-27 Retrouvaille in your prayers.



the
marriage
course

JULY 2009

Why do The Marriage Course?

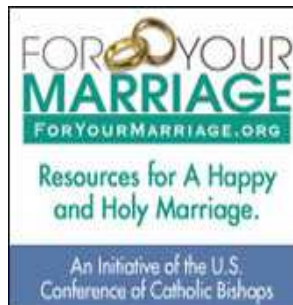
Regular check-ups help a car run smoothly and reduce the risk of breakdown. Sports professionals spend hours being coached and perfecting their techniques. The greatest achievements in life take practice, training and dedication. It's the same with marriage...

A strong, loving and lifelong relationship doesn't happen by chance. It takes effort and dedication to keep the fun and romance. Many resources are available **on-line** (http://www.alpharesources.org/The_Marriage_Course_W9C49.cfm) or call 1-800-362-5742.

Marriage Rx: Career Conflicts

They started out as a two-career couple, but now there's a baby in the picture.

Click here to **READ OUR PRESCRIPTION** » (http://www.foryourmarriage.org/interior_template.asp?id=20399069)



Same-Sex Marriage?

The following is a short response written by Phil Webb, Archdiocese of Denver Director of Marriage and Family Life, to an article by activist Catholic Claremont professor, Ms. Rosemary Radford Ruether on same-sex marriage.

In "Why Marriage between Homosexuals is Good for Marriage," Rosemary Radford Ruether makes [a compelling case](http://www.patheos.com/Resources/Additional-Resources/Why-Marriage-between-Gays-is-Good-for-Marriage.html) for same-sex marriage. This case is built from a premise that marriage extends goods and promotes stability to any two same-sex or heterosexual adults who are in a life-long loving, committed, and monogamous relationship.

This being the definitive expression of marriage, the Church and much of society appear to be determining unfairly who can express this kind of love and commitment in marriage and who cannot. For Ms. Ruether, this makes no logical or empirical sense, and she is right! From this premise it makes no sense to me either.

For the Catholic Church and much of society, however, this understanding of marriage does not get at the heart of its unique expression. The definitive expression of married love is more than the mutual attraction, quality of love, and commitment of two adults. Rather, the essence of marriage is summed up in the conjugal bond or sexual embrace. This and only this makes marriage what it is, and consummates the ordering of male and female in a particular kind of society with a unique vocation.

Marital love does not contain more dignity than other expressions of love. It does not render other forms of self-giving second class. It does represent a public bond suitable for its obligations to family and society should, God willing, such responsibilities come to pass. An ability to engage in the sexual act, openness to children, and ordering to the family, even if through adoption, and even if the couple is beyond childbearing age, is the beauty and fruit of marriage, and its unique responsibility.

The Catholic Church believes Christ elevated marriage to the dignity of a sacrament, and it is here that God desires most to participate in the creation of new life, sacred, and made in God's image. Marriage, however, is a human ordering that does not originate with the state or the church. It exists naturally as the basic cell of society that protects and replenishes it with the next generation. Marriage attaches children to both a mother and father according to the child's dignity. The societal stability this promotes is precisely why politicians and courts are obligated, not to redefine marriage or treat it as merely a religious question, but to protect and encourage it.

Same-sex couples can certainly be good people, and no doubt are often better people than many heterosexual couples, but they can't be both a mother and a father. Dr. Richard Fitzgibbons, M.D., a psychiatrist with the Catholic Medical Association, stated "social science research supports the recent statement of the Vatican that to deliberately deprive a child of a father or a mother through adoption by those in the homosexual lifestyle would inflict severe harm onto those children." Research on the needs of children for both a father and a mother have been reviewed in many places, including recent papers from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and the University of Utah School of Medicine. We simply cannot deny the significance of the male-female nature of humanity and the created orderliness that sexual diversity brings to parenting.

In our culture, we are falling short of this ideal in many ways. Four out of ten children are now born in this country without both a father and mother. Nevertheless, it is an ideal given by God according to the dignity of children, and should be promoted with relentless vigor.

Heaven forbid any of us predict the end of western civilization because of same-sex marriage. It will, however, introduce unfortunate side effects, as we are seeing now in some places. Legalizing same-sex marriage will make it necessary for government to defend and enforce other changes in society. For instance, when the state says that same-sex couples are equivalent to opposite-sex couples, adoption laws and school curriculum will have to support this claim.

In several states, anti-discrimination statutes are trumping those who seek religious exemptions under the free-exercise clause of the First Amendment. In some places, individuals are considered unable to win elections or hold public office because they adhere to traditional teaching about sex and marriage and their moral and religious objections to Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transsexual behavior are made public.

Finally, those of us who think deeply about this on both sides of the issue understand at some level that to view marriage as an equal right for any two adults who love and commit to each other is also to admit other possibilities for marriage. It is logically unavoidable. Despite the charge of fear mongering, in fact, redefining marriage in this way creates credible reason to allow marriage for other kinds of loving committed arrangements.

I heard an interview recently with a woman who is in a triadic relationship. She is married happily to her husband, and with her husband's consent she is also partnered in a loving and committed sexual relationship with another woman. Which part of that triad should be denied the dignity of marriage and thus rendered second-class? And why is that not an arbitrary judgment about the human capacity for love and commitment?

The bottom line is that proponents of same-sex marriage decouple the meaning of marital love from its natural and divine purpose. The sexual embrace, open to new life, is rendered sterile, devoid of natural meaning or expression. For most, this decoupling is promoted innocently and in a spirit of good will and fairness. Nevertheless, it distorts the inherent meaning of marriage and further diminishes the crippled role marriage now plays as the basic cell of our society.