

FALL 2017

THE OFFICE OF FAMILY MINISTRY



Office Of Family Ministry

815-838-5334

E-mail: familyministry@dioceseofjoliet.org

Website: dioceseofjoliet.org/familyministry

Dr. James Healy, Director

Valerie Maty, Associate Director

Pat Spain, Secretary

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY TRAINING

October 21, October 28, and November 4, 2017

This facilitator training is designed for those who have never attended a Ministry of Consolation workshop. The first two sessions, (October 21st and October 28th) begin at 9am and end at 4pm; the last session (November 4) begins at 9am and ends at 12 noon. **Check-in for all three sessions begins at 8:30am.**

Each participant receives a Ministry of Consolation Workbook, first developed by the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved (NCMB). Time will be devoted to grief, communication skills, setting up the parish program (including the Order of Christian Funerals), caring for the minister, facilitating support groups, healing and meditation, and multicultural issues in bereavement ministry. **Participants are required to attend all three sessions and will receive a certificate of completion at the end. Please register by October 1, 2017.**

This diocesan program takes place at the Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill and will be presented by Valerie Maty, Associate Director of the Office of Family Ministry and Sister Sharon Marie Stola, OSB, D.Min., Director of the Office of Divine Worship.

The \$75 fee includes a manual, handouts, continental breakfast and lunch on October 21 and October 28, and continental breakfast on November 4, 2017. For a brochure, or to register, please call **815-838-5334**. For a downloadable brochure, please go to www.dioceseofjoliet.org/familyministry, and click on the Bereavement Ministry banner.

Nourish
Nurture. Empower. Advance.™

A Parish Ministry which addresses the practical, emotional and spiritual needs of families caring for a loved one, in the framework of Catholic Faith.

“Prepare to Care” A Caregiver Presentation

September 14, 2017
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
Blanchette Catholic Center

“Prepare to Care”

Today, family caregivers represent 43 million Americans; virtually every one of us will care for someone at some point in our life. Caregivers in our parishes are juggling the challenges of life, health, family, career and caring for an ailing or aging parent, grandparent, or spouse, whether in town or from a distance. The Catholic Church has a long history of journeying alongside persons during times of change and transition, in her sacraments, ministries and support groups. Yet few parishes right now offer caregiver support. **Nourish** is a complete program that enables parish communities to minister to these family caregivers, helping them embrace the graces and blessings that come in caring for another with a Christ-centered view.

Learn More!

Learn more about the caregiver ministry at an informative and interactive presentation, led by Deb Kelsey Davis, RN, a lay minister certified in gerontology and Kelly Johnson, Adult Faith Formation Coordinator at St. Mary of Gostyn Parish in Downers Grove. Speaking from personal experience, Deb and Kelly share tools, insights and stories to aid others with this modern-day concern of caring for the caregiver. Deb and Kelly's mission is to equip parishes to accompany family caregivers to help them encounter Christ and deepen their faith, while finding grace and blessings in their caregiver journey.

Register Today!

Call **815-838-5334**, email familyministry@dioceseofjoliet.org or online at <http://conta.cc/2vZfglV> by September 11, 2017.

“CELEBRATE YOURSELF”

A “Single Through Loss” Ministry Late Summer Event on September 17, 2017

If you are widowed or divorced, please join us on Sunday, September 17 to hear a Mindfulness/Relaxation speaker, inspiring guitar music, and share in our ice cream social. The program begins at 2:00 pm (check-in begins at 1:30 pm) and concludes at 5:00 pm.

This event will take place at the Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill, IL. The \$15 fee can be paid at the door with cash or check payable to the Diocese of Joliet. To register, call **(815) 838-5334**, email the Family Ministry Office at familyministry@dioceseofjoliet.org or register online at <http://conta.cc/2hkR61Q>. Reservations are required by September 7, 2017.

FIRST RETROUVAILLE HELD IN SPANISH

Retrouvaille, a program for troubled marriages, has been held in the Joliet Diocese for the past 30 years, but only in English. On the weekend of **August 25-27**, the first ever Spanish weekend will be held at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, Illinois.

Retrouvaille is for married couples whose marriages are in serious trouble and who may be contemplating divorce. Indeed, they may already be separated, but are willing to work towards reconciliation. Through a carefully structured spiritual weekend, led by a priest and trained marriage couples who themselves have overcome challenges, couples come to see what they need to do in order to recover hope. There are follow-up sessions after the weekend, as well as an ongoing support group which couples are urged to participate in.

Another weekend in Spanish during the winter months is in the planning stage. Interested couples should call **847-792-1367** to learn more about the next weekend and to register.

PARISHES: INVITATION TO JOIN

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE MINISTERS (NACFLM)

Parishes who wish to deepen their involvement in family ministry are encouraged to join NACFLM. They will receive access to family ministry materials and resources, participate in professional development conference calls, attend conferences at reduced rates, and most importantly, be able to network with other parishes who are intentional about family ministry. For more information, please go to www.nacflm.org or call the Office of Family Ministry.



NACFLM's annual conference will be held in Lafayette, Louisiana next summer from July 15-18. Pre-seminars covering a range of family ministry topics will also be offered on July 14 and 15. Please see the above website for conference information as it becomes available.

"SR. SARGE" RECEIVES AWARD; CONTINUES TO OFFER VETERAN'S RETREATS FOR MAYSLAKE MINISTRIES

Sr. Linda McClenahan, O.P., "Sr. Sarge," received the 2017 Region VII (Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin) Family Ministry Award in April "for her dedicated service to veterans and their families." Through Mayslake Ministries of Downers Grove, she continues to offer free veteran's retreats for veterans and their significant others throughout the greater Chicagoland area. The next retreat will be as follows:

Coming Home: A Christian retreat program designed to help military men and women come to spiritual healing and reconciliation with God, themselves, and with one another. The veteran's significant other is also invited. There is NO charge for this retreat. A **Coming Home** Retreat will be held on **October 20-22** at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, WI.

For more information regarding upcoming retreats or to register, please go to www.mayslakeministries.org or call **630-852-9000**.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

The Thirty-ninth Annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday, August 27** at **2 pm** at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet. Couples celebrating anniversaries of **25 years, 50 years, and more than 50 years**, are welcome to attend. Please register as soon as possible by calling the Office of Family Ministry at **815-838-5334** or go online to <http://conta.cc/2pWICgx>.

FOCCUS TRAINING

The FOCCUS Pre-Marital Inventory is part of the marriage preparation process for all engaged couples in the Diocese of Joliet. Priests, deacons, and other parish staff members, as well as parish-approved and trained lay couples, may use FOCCUS with engaged couples.

There will be a one-day training program for FOCCUS at the Blanchette Catholic Center on **Saturday, September 23, 2017** from **9:00 am to 3:00 pm**.

Individuals or couples will need to purchase the new Fourth Edition FOCCUS Facilitator Manual for \$50.00. There will also be a \$10.00 fee for the day, which includes lunch. **Pre-registration is required by September 15.** Please call **815-838-5334** for more information or to register.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Marriage Encounter is for any married couple who desires a fuller, richer life together. Using a unique approach that was developed to revitalize marriage, couples are given the opportunity to examine their lives together and to strengthen their communication.

English dates in Elk Grove Village for 2017:

August 11-13, October 6-8, December 8-10

For reservations, email applications-joliet@alifetimeoflove.org or for more information, call **630-577-0778** or go to www.wmme-chicagoland.org.



Spanish dates in Chicago for 2017:

September 1-3, November 3-5

For more information or to register, call Gabriela & Javier Vargas at **630-621-8984** or **630-621-8978**

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

Catholic Engaged Encounter is designed to help couples prepare for marriage. It is an intensive weekend of work during which each couple is offered the time and opportunity to question, examine, and deepen their relationship with each other and with God. Couples are challenged to explore their relationship in a much deeper, more honest way than they have been before. The 2017 schedule is as follows:



Weekends in English at the Portiuncula Center for Prayer in Frankfort:

September 16-17, November 4-5

Couples who book ahead should have no problems with registration. However, since the weekends do fill up, interested couples should register as soon as possible. For reservations, go to www.jolietee.org, or for questions, call **815-277-1112** or send an email to: ceejoliet@gmail.com.

For information on weekends in Spanish,
please call **815-221-6246**.

RETRouvaille WEEKEND FOR TROUBLED MARRIAGES

Retrouvaille is a program designed to help couples heal and renew their marriages. This weekend program helps couples to put the pieces back together and rebuild loving relationships. Husbands and wives re-establish communication and gain new insights into themselves as individuals and as a couple.



2017 Weekends

Rockford Diocese: August 25-27
Gary, IN Diocese: September 22-24
Joliet Diocese: October 20-22
Chicago Archdiocese: December 1-3

For information, reservations or other dates and locations, call **708-802-1830** or go to www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

ANNULMENT INFORMATION DAY

Saturday, November 18, 2017

An annulment information seminar will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2016, from **9:00 am to 4:00 pm** at the Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill. People interested in petitioning for annulment, those already in the process, or anyone who wants information about the annulment process are welcome to attend. The annulment process will be explained and all questions will be welcomed. This day does not start the process but offers a friendly atmosphere to learn what annulment means and what is entailed in the process. During the day those in attendance will have a "hands-on" review of the Joliet diocesan annulment paperwork. **Please register by November 10.** A \$25 fee includes morning coffee, lunch, and a binder with handouts. **Check-in begins at 8:30 am.** To register, please call The Office of Family Ministry at **815-838-5334** or online at <http://conta.cc/2wieHTs>.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING CLASSES

The Joliet Diocesan Natural Family Planning Program teaches the Billings Ovulation Method (BOMA) of NFP. These two-session classes in **English** and **Spanish** are offered for a fee of \$50 per couple. Parishes may also arrange on-site classes. For general information, call the Office of Family Ministry at **815-838-5334** or contact us at familyministry@dioceseofjoliet.org. For specific classes, please see locations below.

- Blanchette Catholic Center, Crest Hill: Two-session classes in **English** are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. To register or for information, contact instructor Lupita Sorich at LupitaSorich@gmail.com or **815-735-8439**.
- Blanchette Catholic Center, Crest Hill: Two-session classes in **Spanish** are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. To register or for information, contact instructor Lupita Sorich at LupitaSorich@gmail.com or **815-735-8439**.
- Presence St. Mary Hospital, Kankakee: Classes in **English** are held on the second Friday of each month from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The second session is arranged individually. In the Kankakee area, classes are also offered in **Spanish** by appointment. To register or for information, contact instructor Lupita Sorich at LupitaSorich@gmail.com or **815-735-8439**.
- St Matthew Parish in Glendale Heights: Two-session classes in **English** are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. For class times, to register or for information, contact instructor Edna Pasillas at rpasillas5@gmail.com or **630-441-7717**. Two-session classes in **Spanish** are offered by appointment.

Independent NFP providers also offering instruction: Creighton FertilityCare www.fertilitycare.org; Couple to Couple League (CCL) <http://ccli.org>; Harrisburg Sympto-Thermal Method NFPwithCandM@.com or (847-922-5124).

JOYFUL AGAIN!

A Widowed Ministry

JOYFUL AGAIN! is a two-day program for widows and widowers who want to resolve the grief they feel inside and begin to live again after the death of their spouse. The weekend employs a series of video presentations, followed by facilitated small group discussion and private reflection time. Through this process, individuals gain new insights and receive encouragement and support. Trained facilitators, who have been widowed themselves, help with the weekend and the discussions.

Upcoming **2017** retreat weekends are **August 12 & 13** in Elmhurst, **October 28 & 29** in Batavia, and **November 11 & 12** at Our Lady of the Angels House of Prayer (located in Lemont on Alvernia Manor's campus). The 2018 retreats begin with a weekend on **March 3 & 4** in Lemont.

For more information, to register, or for other dates and locations, please contact Charlotte Hrubes at **708-354-7211** or check the web at www.joyfulagain.org.



2018 DEACON CANDIDATES ENCOUNTER FAMILY MINISTRY

The deacon candidates who will be ordained in August of 2018 have just completed their internships - three of them with the Office of Family Ministry. Randy Waring from St. Isaac Jogues in Hinsdale has completed a project in adapting and piloting a new marriage preparation program. Paul Kelly, also from St. Isaac Jogues, has completed a project regarding ministry to parents who have children with addictions. Steve DeSitter from St. Mary of Gostyn Parish in Downers Grove has completed a project on annulment ministry.

The class of 26 candidates will be spending 7 evenings in November and December with Dr. Jim Healy and staff learning more about marriage preparation, baptism preparation, marriage enrichment, divorce and bereavement ministry, and other aspects of family ministry. Please keep these men and their families in your prayers as they near ordination.

"SINGLE THROUGH LOSS" GATHERING FOR MEN AND WOMEN on December 9

After the loss of a spouse through death or divorce, even those well on their way to an adjusted lifestyle can find the holiday season challenging. Please join us on Saturday, December 9 for a festive Christmas tea and presentations. The program begins 1 pm (check-in starts at 12:30 pm) and concludes with a Vigil Mass at 4 pm.

This event will take place at the Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill. The \$15 fee can be paid at the door with cash or a check payable to Diocese of Joliet. To register, call **815-838-5334**, email familyministry@dioceseofjoliet.org or register online at <http://conta.cc/2hkJLIU>. Reservations are required by December 1.

Single Through Loss (STL) is an inter-parish committee of the Office of Family Ministry of the Diocese of Joliet whose members include support group leaders of "Divorce and Beyond, the "Joyful Again" widowed ministry, and other peer support groups in the diocese. Events are rotated at various locations throughout the diocese.

STL's mission is to provide spiritual enrichment and networking opportunities for widowed and divorced Catholics who have passed through the initial stages of grief and are ready to begin a new chapter in their lives. STL meetings are open to individuals of all denominations who are respectful of faith-based values.

TREE OF LIGHT INFANT MEMORIAL MASS

On **Sunday, November 5, 2017** all families and individuals are welcome to attend this Mass at the Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill. This beautiful liturgy will remember babies who have been lost through miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, other pregnancy losses or early childhood death. At **2:00 p.m.**, a special tree blessing ceremony for family members to commemorate these babies will precede the mass. Family members may wish to arrive at 1:30 pm to sign in and to gather in the chapel. A reception with light refreshments will be served immediately following. To register online, go to <http://conta.cc/2f4CvXS> or call **815-838-5334** by November 1. If you are not able to attend but would like your baby remembered, please call us.

"HOW TO BE MARRIED AND STAY ENGAGED" ON NOV. 11 AT ST. RAPHAEL'S

Three types of intimacy are needed for marriage to flourish. Happily, these three types of intimacy are also the basis of our Catholic Christian marriage vows. In down-to-earth and sometimes humorous ways, Dr. Jim Healy, director of the Office of Family Ministry, will offer a vision and strategies for couples to live these vows more deeply and completely. Dr. Healy is a well-known speaker and writer on marriage.

This event will take place on Saturday, November 11, from 9 am to noon at St. Raphael Catholic Church in Naperville, IL. Those outside the parish who would like to attend are asked to contact Deacon Kurt Lange at **630-615-7607** by Wednesday, November 8.

PARISH MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT

Marriage Enrichment Ministry is a group of parishes in the Eastern DuPage Deanery who have grouped together to offer solid marriage enrichment events for their couples. From their mission statement: "We believe our parishes need to actively support married couples with opportunities to strengthen and grow that are practical, experiential, prayerful, celebratory, and inspirational."



Their next event, entitled, **More Ways to Love Your Sweetheart**, is a sequel to their successful initial event last October. It will be held the evening of Friday, October 13, 2017 at Holy Ghost Parish in Wood Dale, Illinois. For more details and to register, please contact EasternDuPageMEM@gmail.com.

This is the third deanery in the diocese which has joined together to offer marriage enrichment experiences. Other deaneries interested in doing the same should contact Dr. Jim Healy at the Family Ministry Office.

SUPPORT GROUP FACILITATOR TRAINING

On **September 9**, the Office for Family Ministry is sponsoring facilitator training for church-sponsored divorce, bereavement, and other hurting/healing support groups. Valerie Maty, associate director of the Office of Family Ministry, will lead this training session at the Blanchette Catholic Center in Crest Hill.

This training is for those who are facilitating or who are planning to facilitate self-help support group sharing sessions. The training will cover the role of the facilitator, listening skills, support group ground rules, handling difficult situations, and role-playing practice sessions. Participants should be endorsed by their parish for this ministry.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Training starts at 9:00 am and concludes at 4:00 pm. The \$20 fee covers morning coffee, lunch, and a student manual. **To register, please call 815-838-5334 by September 1.**

NEW VERSION OF

TEN GREAT DATES TO ENERGIZE YOUR MARRIAGE

Many parishes have used the **Ten Great Dates** program by David and Claudia Arp. **Ten Great Dates** is a very accessible, non-threatening marriage enrichment experience where a parish identifies 10 "date nights" over the course of a year, and asks couples to commit to them. The dates begin at the parish with an opening prayer and a 10-15 minute video on some aspect of marriage. Couples are then invited to go out on a date of their choice, where they share the answers to the exercise given to them after the video. A **Ten Great Dates** book provides additional information and resources.

The new 2016 version updates the book and exercises to reflect the realities couples face today. Dr. Josh and Christi Straub, both counselors, are the new couple on the videos, presenting on the same topics as before, but with new content. The materials are now much more "social media friendly," although the program also helps couples set appropriate boundaries regarding the role of social media in their lives and in their marriages.

The book and the videos can be borrowed from the Office of Family Ministry for previews and for use. They can also be purchased directly from www.10greatdates.org. On the website there are also additional great date formats, some with videos, that focus more deeply on a couples' spiritual life, on engaged or pre-engaged couples, on African-American couples, on Spanish or Korean speaking couples, and on the "empty nest" phase of marriage.

SAVE THE DATE!

The next Divorced and Widowed Conference will be held on **April 21, 2018**. More information concerning this day for the divorced and widowed will be in the Office of Family Ministry Winter/Spring newsletter which comes out in December.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Blanchette Catholic Center
16555 Weber Rd.
Crest Hill, IL 60403
FAX (815) 221-6089
(815) 838-5334
E-mail familyministry@dioceseoffollet.org
Website dioceseoffollet.org/familyministry

THE OFFICE OF FAMILY MINISTRY

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