

Spring 2010 Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Religious Preference _____

E-mail _____

Fiance's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Religious Preference _____

Name of Your Parish _____

Priest/Deacon with whom you are working to prepare:

Wedding date: _____

_____ Please check here if you have already taken the FOCCUS or PREPARE assessment or if you have made arrangements to take it through your parish. (This must be completed before you attend our classes.)

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Our spring class session will be held on 4 consecutive Tuesday evenings: MAR. 2, 9, 23, 30 (skipping Spring Break). Dinner is included & will be served at 6:30pm.

Classes will run from 7-9pm . Please arrive on time!

(Couples must attend all 4 classes.)

Classes will be held at the Diocese of Austin Pastoral Center at 6225 Hwy 290 East, Austin, TX 78723.

Please enclose a check or money order for \$155, payable to the Diocese of Austin. Mail the completed form to: Catholic Family Counseling & Family Life Office, Diocese of Austin, PO Box 15405, Austin, TX 78761.

Directions To the Diocese of Austin Pastoral Center:

Heading north on I-35, take Exit 238A before Capital Plaza. Stay on the access road until you reach Hwy 290, then turn right on the Hwy 290 access road and proceed for about 1/4 mile. The Pastoral Center is a 2-story brown brick building on the right.

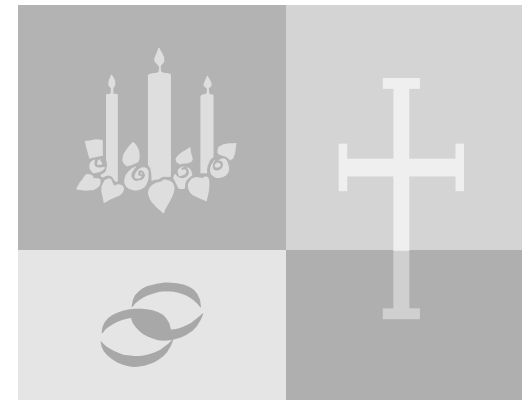
Coming from the north, head south on I-35 and take Exit 238A for Airport/Koenig/2222 . Stay on the access road and turn left at the intersection of Hwy 290 & the I-35 access road. Follow the Hwy 290 access road for about 1/4 mile. The new Pastoral Center is on the right.

Diocese of Austin

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC
FAMILY COUNSELING
AND FAMILY LIFE



Together in God's Image: An Introduction to Catholic Marriage



**A four-session formation series
for couples preparing for the
sacrament of Matrimony**

Diocese of Austin

Catholic Family Counseling and Family Life
6225 Hwy 290 East
Austin, Texas 78723

Marriage -- a wonderful gift, an awesome responsibility

Marriage is a wonderful gift – and an awesome responsibility. The celebration of marriage as a sacrament is not a one-time event, but a life-long vocation. God has a plan for marriage, and he wills it to be something wonderful. Marriage presents special challenges, but it can also be one of the most fulfilling experiences of being human.

This four-part marriage preparation series presents an overview of the Church's teachings on the sacrament of marriage and how these teachings impact the practical ways in which we live out our marriage.

In four consecutive weekly sessions, couples will explore four key aspects of the marital relationship – faith, communication, sexuality, and stewardship – all presented in the context of a sacramental view of marriage.

Each session will include both group and couple prayer experiences, presentations on Church teachings, and opportunities for reflection and discussion.



SESSION ONE: MARRIAGE AND FAITH

This session will begin by defining and discussing sacrament. Participants will gain an understanding of marriage as a sign of Jesus' relationship with the Church and the married couple as a sign of the Holy Trinity (Genesis 1:27).

SESSION TWO: MARRIAGE AND COMMUNICATION

The context of sacrament will be used to explore how married couples are called to interact and communicate with one another, how this theology calls us to express ourselves and listen to one another. Forgiveness and reconciliation in the marital relationship will also be discussed.

SESSION THREE: MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

This session will discuss the basic concepts of Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body* and how these ideas apply to marital sexuality. We will discuss how the sexual relationship is called to reflect the total gift of self to one another and the reasoning behind often-misunderstood Church teachings, such as the Church's prohibition of contraception. Couples will also be offered an introduction to Natural Family Planning as a method of delaying or achieving pregnancy that is fully compatible with God's plan.

SESSION FOUR: MARRIAGE AND STEWARDSHIP

This session will focus on the gifts we have from God and how we nurture and share those gifts in the context of marriage. Topics include children as gifts from God, managing time and financial resources, and sharing our talents with our Church and community.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Location: Weeknight sessions of "Together in God's Image" are usually held from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Diocese of Austin Pastoral Center. (See registration form for details).

Cost: The cost of the four-session series is \$155 per couple, and **includes dinner at 6:30pm before each class.**

Questions regarding this program may be directed to Dr. Joseph White, Director of Catholic Family Counseling and Family Life at (512) 949-2495, or by e-mail to lynda-degroot@austindiocese.org.

Please note that the Guidelines for Marriage in the Diocese of Austin strongly recommend that couples attend marriage preparation courses **at least six months prior to their scheduled wedding date.** To register for this series, please complete the form on the reverse side, and mail it to the address below.



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Austin, Texas 78723