



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION



Gregory Shemitz, The Long Island Catholic

Preparation for the
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
2011 – 2012



The Long Island Catholic

Gregory Shemitz,

*Father, to reveal the plan of your love,
you made the union of husband and wife
an image of the covenant between you and your people.
In the fulfillment of this sacrament,
the marriage of Christian man and woman
is a sign of the marriage between Christ and the Church.*

*Lord, grant that as they begin to live this sacrament
they may share with each other the gifts of your love
and become one in heart and mind
as witnesses to your presence in their marriage.
Help them to create a home together
and give them children to be formed by the gospel
and to have a place in your family.*

Rite of Marriage, Nuptial blessing, no. 120



Welcome to the Marriage Preparation Process for the Diocese of Rockville Centre. You will find a variety of marriage preparation programs listed in this booklet to accommodate various schedules and needs. Our hope is that you realize your importance within the Church community. This sacramental preparation is an invitation to continue your faith journey and to grow in relationship with God and each other.

“Preparation of young people for marriage and family is more necessary than ever in our times.”

These are the words of John Paul II from his 1981 encyclical *Familiaris Consortio* and they still remain true today. The decision to marry and choose to live a sacramental marriage is an important step. We encourage you to approach this sacramental preparation with openness to God’s Spirit, the Church, and to each other.



The process of marriage preparation begins with an initial meeting with the pastoral minister at your parish to facilitate arrangements and guide you on the necessary steps in this process. Please keep in mind that your parish is the first and foremost choice in sacramental preparation. We ask that you contact your parish and inquire about their marriage preparation process.

All marriage preparation programs address aspects of being married in the Catholic tradition. The vocation of Christian marriage, communication, listening skills, conflict resolution, conscience formation, intimacy, and natural family planning are among the topics that are discussed.

To select the process that best suits your needs, please review the schedule. Both partners must attend all sessions of the marriage preparation. You may register online for any diocesan marriage preparation programs at www.drvc-faith.org/marriagePrep.html.



FOCCUS FACILITATING OPEN COUPLE COMMUNICATION UNDERSTANDING AND STUDY

FOCCUS is a self-assessment tool designed to assist couples in learning more about themselves and each other.

In addition to the Marriage Preparation Programs, all engaged couples are required to complete the FOCCUS questionnaire at least **six months prior** to attending a Marriage Preparation Program (whether on the parish level or diocesan level). Couples attending a Diocesan Marriage Preparation Program are urged to register to take the questionnaire online (www.drvc-faith.org). The follow up discussion of the inventory will take place during the marriage preparation sessions.

Please check the online option if you are attending a diocesan marriage preparation program and the facilitator will contact you with the instructions on how to complete the FOCCUS questionnaire online.

Couples attending parish-based marriage preparation programs where FOCCUS is not given must register for the diocesan FOCCUS-only option which is administered and facilitated through the Office of Faith Formation.



NFP NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Natural Family Planning is a holistic approach to family planning, which encourages an awareness of sexuality, marital love and family.

NFP seminars are taught by volunteer couples who have learned NFP and used NFP to plan their own families. Each couple has been certified as an NFP Teaching Couple.

The seminars consist of one session of approximately 2 hours. NFP Teaching Couples make themselves available by phone following a couples participation in the seminar for consultation.

Sessions are conveniently scheduled throughout the year on a monthly basis. Please check the website, <http://www.drvc-faith.org> or call (516) 678-5800 extension 204.

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION OPTIONS

Saturday/Sunday Session

Meets 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. on both days.
Interfaith sessions are designated on calendar.

Weeknight Marriage Preparation

One night per week, six consecutive weeks from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Engaged Encounter Weekend

A weekend retreat experience which allows time for more reflection, couple interaction, and prayer. Friday, 7:00 p.m. through Sunday 3:00 p.m.

Cana II, For Couples Remarrying in the Church (Divorced and Annulled or Widowed)

Meets Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. on both days.

Preparación Matrimonial En Español

Meets two Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Check our website at www.drvc-faith.org for online registration and dates.

Calendar is updated frequently.

Sessions close when maximum registration is reached.

Please register early for the session.



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MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAMS

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