

FORMATION RETREATS



Celebrating Your Love (CYL) Diocesan Day

For engaged and civilly married couples. A one-day retreat held on Saturdays at locations throughout the Diocese. Explores Catholic teaching on marriage and provides an overview of practical and valuable skills for marriage.

Visit sdcatholic.org/cyl for dates and registration.



Engaged Encounter Weekend

A weekend marriage prep experience starting on Friday evening and concluding late Sunday afternoon with the celebration of Mass. Provides time for couples to dialogue honestly and intensively about their future lives together.

Register at sandiego.engagedencounter.com.



Marriage Encounter Weekend

Similar to Engaged Encounter, but for couples already married civilly for at least a few years.

Register at wwme-sandiego.org.



New Beginning

For couples entering a second marriage after the divorce or death of a former spouse (only one party needs to have been previously married).

For dates and registration, visit sdcatholic.org/cyl.



AMORIS LAETITIA ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY

"Married life is a process of growth in which each spouse is God's means of helping the other to mature. Change, improvement, the flowering of the good qualities present in each person — all these are possible. Each marriage is a kind of 'salvation history,' which from fragile beginnings — thanks to God's gift and creative and generous response on our part — grows over time into something precious and enduring."

*Pope Francis,
The Joy of Love*

Questions & Answers

Where should we prepare for marriage?

The marriage prep process should take place at the engaged couple's home parish, even if the wedding is taking place elsewhere.

When should we begin marriage prep?

We recommend starting the process at least 9-12 months before the proposed wedding date in order to take full advantage of the amazing resources available to you!

Do both bride and groom need to be Catholic?

As long as either the bride or the groom is a baptized Catholic, then the couple can marry in the Church.

If you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to us or to your home parish!



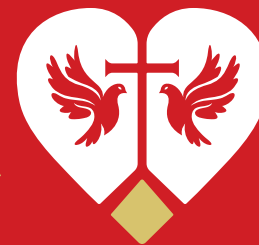
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SPIRITUALITY

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PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE IN THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

WELCOME TO THE
**JOURNEY
OF
YOUR
LOVE**
DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO



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DEAR FRIENDS:

Congratulations on your engagement!

We're so glad that you've chosen to marry in the Catholic Church. It is a cause for great joy! We are privileged to accompany you on this "journey of your love", and honored that you have entrusted us with equipping you to traverse both the joys and the inevitable challenges that married life brings. As you encounter Christ's love in your relationship with each other, your marriage will be nourished and transformed by His grace.

May God continue blessing you in this process of growing in closer and deeper relationship with God through Christ and with each other. With families and friends around you, may they be your source of support and encouragement for you. And may our Blessed Mother Mary be part of your journey in your life of marriage and family.

*You remain in our prayers,
Most Reverend Michael Pham
Bishop of San Diego*

+ Michael Pham

THE MARRIAGE FORMATION PROCESS

1 MEET WITH YOUR MARRIAGE FORMATION MINISTER

As soon as you are ready to begin formally preparing for marriage, and before setting a date, call your parish to schedule a meeting with your marriage formation minister (typically your priest or deacon), who may also serve as the celebrant for your wedding.

2 TAKE AND REVIEW THE PRE-MARRIAGE INVENTORY

The pre-marriage inventory (typically FOCCUS) is meant to facilitate communication and conflict resolution skills before marriage. Your parish/formation minister will provide directions for completing the questionnaire and will schedule a meeting with you to begin reviewing the results.

3 CHOOSE YOUR MARRIAGE GODPARENTS

This is a couple who can support, encourage, and pray for you throughout — and beyond — the marriage prep process. We encourage couples to choose based on the following guidelines:

- They are married in the Church for at least a few years.
- They are practicing Catholics (if interfaith/ecumenical, this would only apply to the Catholic party).
- They have a marriage you admire and can relate to.
- They attend the parish where you are preparing for marriage, or at least live close enough to get together in-person and on a regular basis.

4 REGISTER FOR ONE OR MORE MARRIAGE PREP RETREATS

The decision about which program(s) to attend should be made in consultation with your priest/marriage formation minister (See reverse side for options).

Rite of Entry into the Marriage Catechumenate

Once engaged couples have met with their priest or deacon, reviewed the pre-marriage inventory, and chosen their marriage godparents, they are ready to enter the Marriage Catechumenate. A rite of entry into the Marriage Catechumenate can mark the beginning of this new stage, giving engaged couples the chance to publicly declare their intention to commit to this journey of marriage formation. A rite of entry is also an opportunity for the parish community to commit to praying for you and with you on this journey!

Entering the Marriage Catechumenate

During the Marriage Catechumenate, all couples are encouraged to visit regularly with their Marriage Godparents, attend Mass together and engage in prayerful reflection and dialogue.

Witness to Love specializes in helping engaged couples and their Marriage Godparents create meaningful conversations and experiences during their time together. Witness to Love offers materials (guidebooks, videos and supplemental online content) that support the engaged couples and their Marriage Godparents in their shared desire to deepen their faith and strengthen their respective relationships.

Many parishes already offer **Witness to Love** as part of the marriage formation process. Engaged couples can also purchase their own materials and begin the process by going to witnessstolove.org/begin-hybrid-experience.

