

# Marriage, Family and Young Adults



Parishes  
Helping Young  
Families Start  
and Stay  
Strong



# Promote Marriage

- Catholic weddings have declined 35%
- Part of a national trend away from marriage



# *MARRIAGE PREPARATION...*

"So that the 'I do' of the spouses may be a free and responsible act and so that the marriage covenant may have solid and lasting human and Christian foundations"

— CCC, 1632



- Experience the welcome of the Church community.
- Understand the teaching of the Church about marriage and family life.
- Learn some skills of communication and conflict resolution.
- Reflect on where they have come from, where they hope to go.



## Marriage Prep Program Goals for Engaged Couples

# Partner with Married Volunteers

Plan meaningful  
and fun  
preparation  
programs

## Choose a Program Style

- One-on-One Sponsors
- Small Group sessions
- Large Group Pre-Cana



Combine styles for optimum impact!

# Explore the 5 C's of Marriage Prep



- Commitment
- Communication
- Conflict Resolution
- Children
- Church

Engaged couples identified these topics as most helpful.

Careers/Work	Cohabitation	Hopes & Dreams	In-laws/ Relatives
Alcohol & Drugs	Financial Issues	Blending Families	Military Service
Domestic/Sexual Abuse	Religion	Remarriage /Former Spouses	Friends/ Leisure



Each couple comes to marriage with different expectations and problems

# Respecting Differences



Families of origin teach each of us the “right way” to be a spouse and parent!

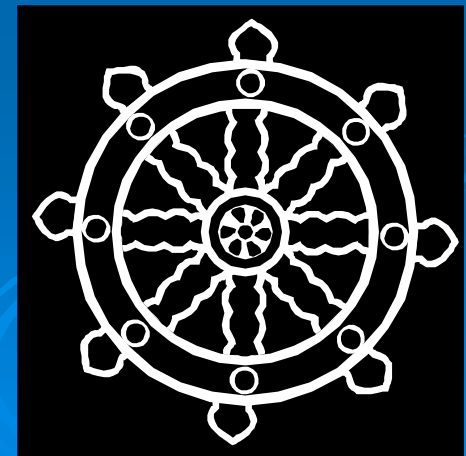
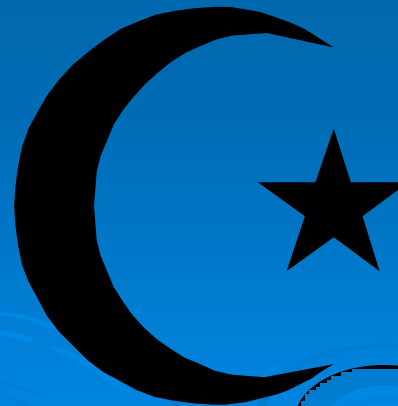
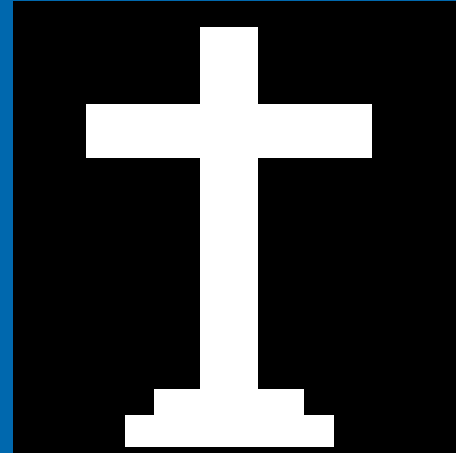
Recognizing our differences early leads to understanding and growth.





# *1/2 of Marriages Are Mixed-Religion*

- Interfaith couples come with lower levels of church involvement and lower expectations.
- They are more likely to drift from church practice.
- Encourage each partner to know and practice his religion.



# Couples Appreciate Marriage Preparation

- Marriage preparation was seen as helpful through the first 5 years after the wedding.



# Beyond Prep: More ways to assist engaged couples



- Hospitality at registration
- Engagement rituals
- Mentor couples
- Natural Family Planning
- Liturgy planning sessions
- Wedding Coordinators
- Convalidation assistance
- Tribunal advocates

# New marriages need extra support



The “Three-Year Itch”

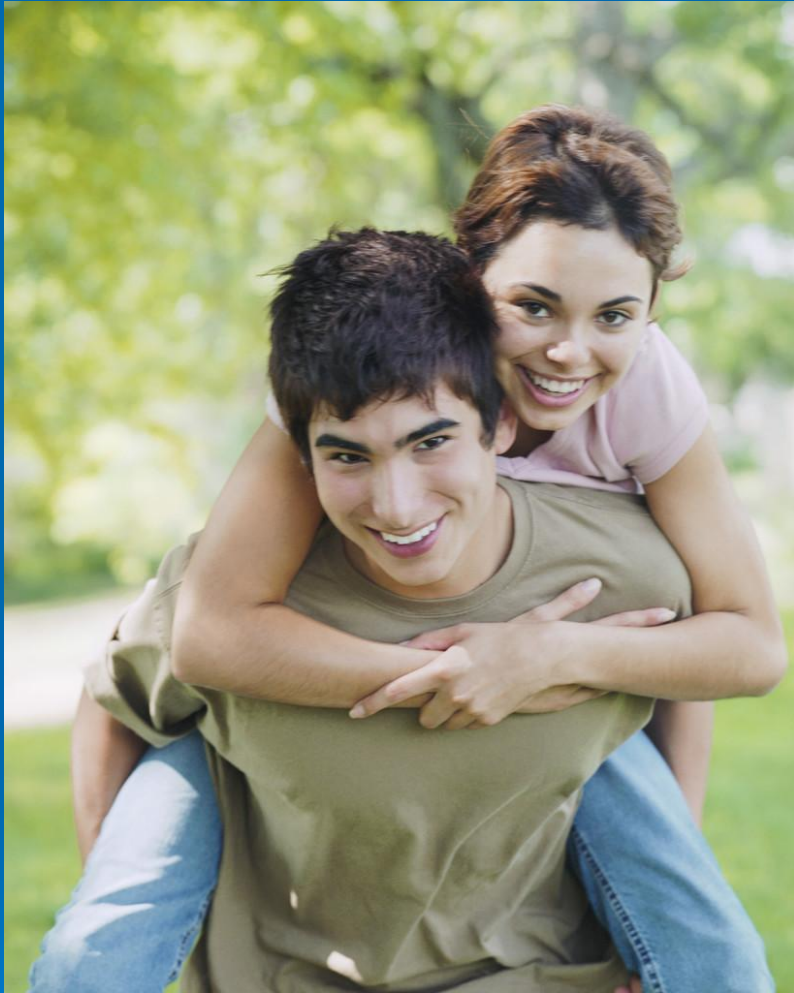
Cohabitation’s habits

“Commitment-allergic”  
culture

Disenchantment with  
Institutional Church

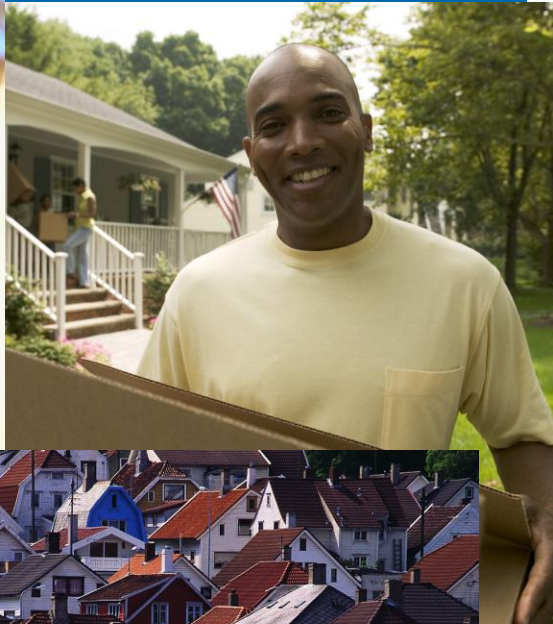
Lack of married friends!

# *On-going Care for Marriage*



- Engage all parishioners in praying for married couples.
- “Teach Out of the Box” marriage education programs – *easy and fun for volunteers and couples*
- Those hurt by marriage also need our care and support.

After the wedding...



Building a home!

# As they transition into parenthood



Pre-school and after  
school care  
programs show  
young parents that  
the Church cares!



# Sustaining New Families

- Baptism Prep
- Mothers' groups
- Small faith groups





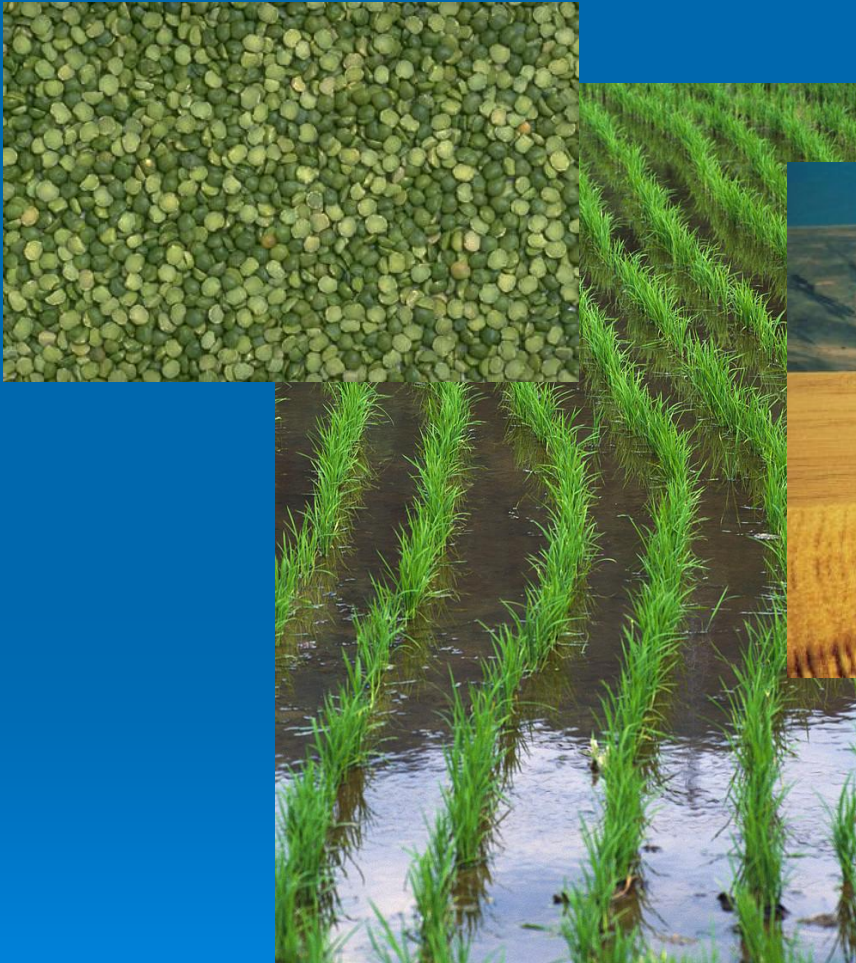
# *Developing an attitude of care and generosity*

- A sense of community among young couples
- Connection to the wider parish family
- Solidarity with those in need
- Building meaningful relationships with others



# One plants, another reaps

In our mobile society...



...we won't often see  
the fruits of Marriage  
Ministry to Young  
Adults!

Young couples need to know they are not alone in their their married vocation



# Training and Program Design

- Contact Lauri Przybysz, 410-547-5420
- [lprzybyzs@archbalt.org](mailto:lprzybyzs@archbalt.org)
- Marriage and Family Enrichment
- Division of Evangelization and Catechesis
  
- **Marriage Preparation resources**
- **“Teach-Out-of-the Box” Marriage Enrichment**