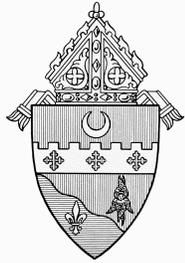


Office of Family Life, Diocese of Fort Wayne–South Bend

# *Marriage Preparation Program*



## *2017 Dates*

### *Conferences for Engaged Couples*

*February 18 (FW) • March 25 (SB)*

*April 29 (FW) • June 17 (SB)*

*August 26 (FW) • October 14 (SB)*

Congratulations on becoming engaged! The vocation of married love is a beautiful and challenging one that deserves special preparation. Your marriage will not only transform your own futures, but it will also have lasting effects on many others and on succeeding generations. As the great St. John Paul II would often say, “The future of humanity passes by way of the family.”

### *Diocesan Guidelines*

The initial process begins at the parish and involves paperwork, such as producing affidavits of freedom to marry from parents or others close to the couple as well as baptismal certificates issued within the last six months. An engaged couple must also complete a questionnaire, often called a premarital inventory, which helps a priest or pastoral minister to identify areas of disagreement that require further discussion.

All engaged couples are expected to attend the daylong Conference for Engaged Couples, which in many parishes will be followed by one or more sessions with a priest, pastoral minister or mentor couple.

### *Conferences for Engaged Couples*

The diocesan conferences for engaged couples are daylong Saturday programs that feature dynamic presentations designed to provide a firm foundation for your future life together. The topics covered include the three essential characteristics of married love; communication and intimacy in marriage; the importance for a woman of being cherished and for a man of being respected; an introduction to St. John Paul II’s theology of the body; sex, responsible parenthood and an introductory video on natural family planning; partnership and spirituality in marriage; and, the Christian family as the “domestic church” or church of the home. Folders with resource materials are also provided to facilitate ongoing reflection and discussion by the couple. While the conference is particularly geared to Catholic engaged couples, all engaged couples are welcome.

Conferences for Engaged Couples (in English) will take place six times in 2017 and will run from 9:00 AM – 3:15 PM. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:30 AM. The fee for the day, including breakfast and materials, is \$90 per couple. **Please register ONLINE at least one week in advance ([www.diocesefwsb.org/Family](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Family)).** Refunds for cancellations will be made up to one week before the date of the program.

These conferences take place at the Grand Wayne in Fort Wayne (*FW*) or at the DoubleTree in South Bend (*SB*). Upon acceptance of your application, a confirmation with directions will be emailed to you. For more information, you may call (574) 234-0687.

Good luck to you in the days ahead and may God bless you as you prepare for a lifetime together.

***Fred & Lisa Everett***

Co-Directors, Office of Family Life