

# Marriage Preparation



## God's Plan for Love

Visit [www.hbgdiocese.org/gp](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/gp)

for a listing of 2022 Program Dates and to Register

### The Six Sessions

#### God's Plan for Marriage "in the Beginning"

Couples are introduced to the idea that God had a plan for married love all along and that the vocation of marriage is of great significance.

#### Christ Restores God's Plan for Marriage

Love is hard to live perfectly, but God provides the grace and virtues to overcome our weaknesses.

#### To What Are You Saying, "I Do"?

Couples learn in detail how the Catholic Church defines marriage and what is required for a marriage to be valid.

#### Where the Words of Your Vows Become Flesh

The complementarity of man and woman is a sign of God's love that must be reflected honestly within the marital embrace.

#### The Beauty of Openness to Life

An OB/GYN physician describes a better way to understand reproductive health, and a young married couple share their experience with Natural Family Planning.

#### Living God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage

A couple married more than sixty years shares the wisdom, fun, and sense of joy that marriage has brought them, and Christopher West offers practical advice on how to keep God as the foundation of your marriage.

### Norms for Marriage Preparations

Marriage preparation in the Diocese of Harrisburg shall take place over a minimum of nine months and consist of the following components:

#### Canonical Process

Initial interview with the priest or deacon where the required canonical forms are completed.

**Pre-marital Inventory** (e.g. FOCCUS, PREPARE, etc.).

#### Formation

Meet at least four (4) times with a mentor couple, a priest or deacon, or another parish-appointed leader for marriage preparation. At least one of these meetings must be with a priest or deacon for an instructional session on the nature of Catholic marriage.

#### Conference

Attend a diocesan marriage preparation conference, per the preparing clergy's instructions. Note that these conferences fulfill the diocesan requirement to attend a short introductory talk on Natural Family Planning as well as a talk on the sacramentality of marriage.

#### Concluding Assessment

Meet with the priest or deacon for a final assessment before marriage (done as needed).

#### Liturgical Planning

Meet with the priest or deacon (and any other liturgical ministers) to plan a prayerful and reverent ceremony.

Diocese of Harrisburg

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