

Plans for Organizing a Marriage Enrichment evening

(Marriage Renewal and Candlelight Dinner)

Purpose:

Planning a marriage enrichment event for married and engaged couples **only** can be great way to re-energize their marriage and deepen their faith

Target Audience

Married Couples primarily, engaged couples.

Suggested Schedule:

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
7:00 Prayer service and talk 7:45 Questionnaire and Renewal of marriage vows 8:00 Dinner 8:30 Champagne and Music Celebration.	6:30 Divine Liturgy with homily 7:30 Questionnaire 7:45 Renewal of marriage vows 8:00 Dinner, Music and champagne celebration.	6:30 Divine Liturgy 7:30 Dinner 8:30 Talk 9:00 Questionnaire 9:40 Renewal of marriage vows followed by a champagne celebration.

Pastor's role:

- Connect the Office of Family & Sanctity of Life with one person who can help in planning family and marriage events in your parish.
- Suggest two possible dates if need speaker from Office or Set a date based on your parish calendar (maybe around Saint Valentine's day or Saturday or Friday before Cana Sunday entrance into Lent)
- Share the date with the Office of Family & Sanctity of Life if you need help getting a speaker to give a reflection on marriage.
- Inform your pastoral council or organizations' officers of your plan.
- Choose one person to be the team leader, to recruit volunteers to plan the event and connect the person with the Office of Family and Sanctity of Life

Team's role:

- Plan ahead:

- Coordinate and collaborate with the Office of Family & Sanctity of Life.
- Start praying and fasting for a fruitful and blessed event (openness of heart..)
- If needed, ask for the event flyer electronically from the Office of Family & Sanctity of Life.
- Show flyer to pastor, get approval and start promoting the event (parish website, bulletin, emails, bulletin board..) at least 4-6 weeks ahead of the scheduled date.

- Keep encouraging your pastor to announce it on the pulpit, at different organizations meetings, in the bulletin..
- Set a reasonable fee (about \$40 -\$75 per couple). Remember the fee should help cover the cost for the food, the music and the decorations and set up needed for the event. The Office of Family and Sanctity of Life can assist financially if needed.
- Make a sign up sheet to include in it name of the registered couples, their contact information, phone number, email address, their wedding date and the payment method.
- Invite a married couple to give testimony if possible.
- Print enough copies of the program for the event (to include in it the renewal of marriage vows and maybe a questionnaire.) It can be obtained from the Office of Family & Sanctity of Life.
- Plan for the speaker- if speaker is out of town, check with pastor if he can stay at the rectory. Pray for the speaker daily so the Holy Spirit speak through him
- Plan for the food - catered food would be the best to make the ladies enjoy the evening and not worrying about cooking unless if there is a group of widows and single women who would like to cook for the event.
- Plan for the music - DJ or singer depending on what works for your parish and your budget.
- If Divine Liturgy is part of the evening, encourage your pastor to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, to use specific readings for marriage and to give a homily that focuses on the importance of family life and married love.
- Recruit people to help in setting up and decorating the social hall to make it romantic (red roses, candle, red color..)
- Purchase materials needed (table cloths, candles, roses, plates, napkins, utensils..)
- Purchase a small token/gift to give to every couple. Marise can share ideas.

- **Things to do the day of the event:**

- Set up the room
- Have the dinner set up as a buffet or recruit non married people to serve the food.
- Set up a SPICE table with jars and different materials on it. All can be obtained from the Office of Family & Sanctity of Life
- Give the couples private time after the talk to reflect on the talk and complete the questionnaire.
- Have the married couples renew their vows in the Church.
- If the speaker is a priest, suggest that pastor and priests be available for confession after renewal of vows.
- Celebrate Married life with food and music!!