



To Welcome and to Witness: A Vision and Strategies for Catholic Marriage

A ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON MARRIAGE PREPARATION ISSUES BY DR. JAMES HEALY

In this daylong workshop, Dr. Healy responds to foundational issues regarding marriage preparation. What can we accomplish at the time of marriage preparation? What do we know about marriage preparation? What should our attitude be towards the engaged couple? In addition to the foundational issues, Dr. Healy will thoroughly address the two topics which most trouble many of those involved in marriage preparation ministry: working with couples who are living together, and working with couples who are “spiritual but not religious.”

This day does not teach a specific marriage preparation program. It is for all those involved in marriage preparation, be they clergy or lay, professional or volunteer. The standard presentation calls for a morning and an afternoon session, but shorter presentations are available

Dr. Healy has led marriage preparation efforts at the diocesan level for the past 25 years. He has spoken in over 75 dioceses. His marriage preparation materials, most notably his **How to Be Married and Stay Engaged CD** and his **Living Together and Christian Commitment** materials, are used in dioceses throughout the United States.

Dr. Healy has been an advisor to the national Catholic bishops’ committee on Marriage and the Family, and has been asked to address the bishops’ committee on various topics since then. He was one of two primary consultants for the committee’s background paper on cohabitation and marriage preparation. Dr. Healy co-presented the results of the Creighton Study on marriage preparation, still the most prominent study of Catholic marriage preparation programs, to the National Council on Family Relations in 1996. He received the National Family Ministry Award in 2000. Dr. Healy is currently the Director of the Center for Family Ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Joliet, Illinois. He and his wife Madonna have four children

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