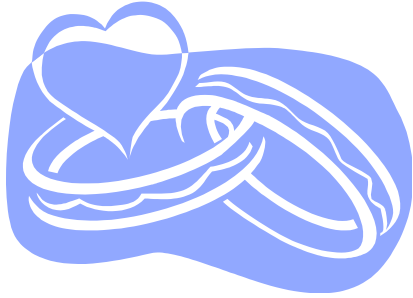


A Wedding is a Day



A Marriage is a Lifetime

*Catholic Engaged
Encounter
of Cleveland*



What is an Engaged Encounter?

Engaged Encounter is a unique marriage preparation weekend. Married couples, along with a priest or married deacon, share their personal experiences as a catalyst for the engaged to examine their own relationship. After each presentation, questions are provided for each individual to answer privately. Then the couple privately shares and discusses their answers to the questions. This enables each couple to develop their own unique, loving relationship.

The presentations cover a wide variety of topics including communications, decision-making, disillusionment, and forgiveness. The material and stories provide a realistic and practical view of marriage from couples that actively seek to keep their love alive and growing. More than that, the presenters provide a model for living out the vow they made to each other before God.

The weekend gives an engaged couple time to explore the issues they will face in their marriage relationship. It is a time to look beyond the wedding to the life they will live after they walk back down the aisle. The weekend also provides an opportunity for each couple to consider the spiritual aspect of their relationship that will be as much a part of their marriage as the emotional, physical, and mental dimensions.

**SPEND A WEEKEND WITH US
TO BENEFIT THE TWO OF YOU.**

Weekend Details

Weekends are held at St. Leonard's Youth Retreat Center in Avon, a beautiful modern facility. They begin on Friday night and end Sunday afternoon with the celebration of Mass. Meals are provided on Saturday and Sunday. Cost and registration information is below. For additional information contact your local parish or visit our website:

www.clevelandencounter.com

**Join our community on Facebook:
Catholic Engaged Encounter of
Cleveland**

Online registration available at
www.clevelandencounter.com
information call:
216-556-0424

Please see detailed information on the contents of
the weekend on reverse side.

Gift Certificates available.

INTRODUCTION

Time To Tune In

Welcomes the couples and lets them introduce themselves. It gives the nuts and bolts concerning the facility, the schedule and the team availability, as well as the ground rules for the discipline of the weekend. The conclusion is an invitation to take advantage of this time together to prepare for a lifetime commitment. Couples are assured that what they write and what they discuss will be private.

ENCOUNTER WITH ME

God Doesn't Make Junk

Lets each individual know that they must accept and love themselves as uniquely created by God before being able to love and accept another. The talk provides a means for discovering “who I am,” and is the only talk on the weekend directed to the individual, as opposed to the couple.

ENCOUNTER WITH WE

Love Is A Decision

Describes the constantly recurring cycle of romance, disillusionment and joy that all couples experience in their relationship. It demonstrates that love does not depend on feelings, but is a decision based on responsibility and commitment that the couple must make every day. Deciding to love, regardless of feelings, illustrates the true joy of love.

OPENNESS IN COMMUNICATION

Arguing Can Be Healthy

Encourages the couple, through the team's examples, to be more open, to trust, to risk and to accept each other. It demonstrates that openness is the key to communication. Revealing themselves to each other and believing in each other's goodness brings them closer. Arguments will arise. This talk gives valuable suggestions for disagreeing lovingly.

SIGNS OF A CLOSED RELATIONSHIP

Will They Change After Marriage?

Examines how preconceived ideas of marriage can affect a relationship. Questions examined: If marriage is to be a growth process, in what areas do I avoid growth? How realistic are my expectations about marrying you? Do I expect to change myself? Do I expect you to change? Can we accept each other if neither of us changes? Marriage is not just living together. It is a growing relationship, day by day, that calls for a lifelong commitment to become totally involved with each other.

CALLED TO BE ONE

Unity Is Our Goal

Sees marriage as a vocation, a sacred call from God to love one another uniquely, totally and irrevocably. Through the team's examples, the couples learn that striving for oneness not happiness is the goal of marriage. The vocation of marriage can be challenging and the more we strive for unity the more we reflect God.

MARRIAGE MORALITY

What Life-Giving Means

Spells out the practical consequences of viewing marriage as a vocation. Marriage morality consists in being life-giving, in accord with the ideal established by Jesus: “I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly.” This contrasts with the negative approach to morality that emphasizes prohibitions. Instead of observing a contract, couples live the covenant of marriage.

DECISIONS IN MARRIAGE

Applying Life-Giving Principles

Gives many practical examples of making moral (life-giving) decisions in the areas of relationship with each other, God, parents and friends. It also covers decision-making regarding career, work, roles, money and time together. A guide for making life-giving decisions is suggested in the form of five steps: Prayer, Discernment, Mutual Agreement, Mutual Responsibility and Re-evaluation.

INTIMACY IN MARRIAGE

A God-Given Gift

Helps the engaged understand that sex and sexuality are part of God's plan for husband and wife to become more human and more expressive of God's goodness. The team emphasizes that sex is a part of our overall relationship; the most intimate form of communication we have and not just an isolated activity. Our sexuality is a God-given gift to be shared between a married couple in a life-giving and responsible manner. The talk concludes with a description of the deeper dimension of our sexuality. This is the mystery of our attraction to a specific individual, rather than just the physical attraction to the opposite sex. This spiritual attraction that bonds us to one person as our intimate partner for life is the deeper dimension of marital unity intended by God.

BECOMING A FAMILY

Our Love Reflected As Life/Embracing Christian Values

Focuses on three main concepts:

1. Formation of family values
2. Openness to life
3. The impact of children

The couple becomes a family at marriage and is invited to regard new life as a gift from God and to welcome the responsibility of being good parents. Natural Family Planning (NFP) is introduced. Children add the new roles of mother and father to that of wife and husband. Relationships with children will go through the same stages of romance, disillusionment and joy that couples find in their own relationship. The couples will realize that their unique family will be formed by the selection and integrating of values and traditions from their individual family backgrounds.

RAP SESSION

Here's What I Think

Gives an informal setting for the couples to discuss the many concerns that arise in their minds, including questions about birth control, finances, careers, in-laws, premarital sex, inter-faith marriage, etc. This free-flowing exchange of information and opinions often helps clear the air on many misconceptions about the teaching and policy of the Church.

PRAYER SERVICE

An Experience Of Community

Concludes the Rap Session on a prayerful note with a candle-light service which expresses the importance of each couple to the entire community of faith.

WEDDING: THE BEGINNING OF OUR SACRAMENT

Our Love Is A Sign Of God's Love

Helps the engaged couples be aware that they are to become a Sacrament of the Church. A married couple gives personal examples of the beauty of living out their Sacrament daily. It is here that our theme, “A Wedding is a Day, A Marriage is a Lifetime,” is personified. This talk is as much an expression of our faith as it is an expression of our intimate relationship. We are not separate and self-sufficient. We are dependent on the moral and spiritual support of the people of the Church who touch our lives.

BETROTHAL

Are We Ready?

Helps the engaged couples begin to understand that their Sacrament is a call to become part of the Church. The team illustrates the difference between preparation for a wedding day (engagement) and preparation for a lifetime of marriage (betrothal). This talk encourages couples to:

1. Assess where they are in their preparation for a Sacramental marriage
2. State what they need to do individually and as a couple to prepare
3. Affirm before each other, Christ and the Church their commitment to work on their relationship

TWO BY TWO

Love One Another

Informs the engaged couple that they can't limit their love to only each other. We are inspired by Luke's Gospel, Chapter 10: “After this the Lord chose 72 others and sent them out two by two to go before Him.” Practical examples demonstrate how we are commanded by Jesus to reach out to others, our family, neighbors, co-workers, the lonely, etc. The couples are encouraged to register and participate in their parish and to volunteer to help church and other charitable organizations.

SHARING THE VISION

Time, Talent and Treasure

Invites the engaged to share in our vision of marriage preparation. It gives them the opportunity to make a life-giving decision in committing a part of themselves (time, talent or treasure) to the Engaged Encounter ministry.

PLAN OF LIFE

My Plan vs. Our Plan

Helps the engaged sort out their goals and priorities as individuals and then come together to begin planning their goals and priorities as a couple. In doing so they are encouraged to be open to God's plan for them as a couple.

FORGIVENESS IN MARRIAGE

Forgive Us As We Forgive Others

Show the necessity of asking for forgiveness and forgiving one another in the day-to-day hurts that we all inflict on each other. It is more than saying, “I'm sorry.” When a couple is able to recognize the need for reconciliation and experience the grace of healing, they are acknowledging their belief in God and their love for one another.

EUCCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

At a final celebration of Mass the couples may be invited to share betrothals they wrote earlier in the weekend. Here they experience a real community celebration joining with each other and the team in a joyful AMEN-their response to God's love for them in Jesus Christ throughout the weekend.