

# Family Life Ministry Update

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www.archgh.org/familylife

*Committed to strengthening the family as the basic unit of Church and society*

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## JANUARY—

**RSVP PLUS**, an informal evening of sharing for English- and Spanish-speaking persons separated, divorced or widowed, **begins January 9 and continues Tuesday evenings through February 13** at the Cameron Retreat Center at St. Dominic Archdiocesan Center. Many persons in these circumstances need someone to listen and this program provides such an opportunity. For more information and/or to register, contact Carmen Saucedo at (713) 741-8730 or FLM at (713) 741-8710 or pcolin@archgh.org.

**COUPLES COMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS** for African-American couples are scheduled for **January 20 and 27 and March 3 and 10**; Spanish-speaking couples, **March 24 and 31**; English-speaking couples **February 10 and 17 and April 21 and 28**, and Asian couples, **April 7, 14, 21 and 28**. All workshops are free and open to couples who are married, engaged or considering marriage. Financial assistance is available for childcare expenses for children under age 12. Parishes making referrals will receive a cash bonus when couples complete the course. The workshops are sponsored by the Greater Houston Healthy Marriage Coalition. For times, locations and to register, call (713) 861-4849 (press "1" and then "0"). For additional information, please call Dixie Lyons at (713) 374-1213, Riva Okonkwo at (713) 374-1209, or Winnie Honeywell at FLM, (713) 741-8709.

**THE BEGINNING EXPERIENCE**, a special weekend program for those who have lost a spouse through separation, divorce or death, will be held **Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, January 26-28**, at St. Dominic Archdiocesan Center. It is designed to help make a new beginning in life through a powerful, intense and positive experience of hope. The program also will be held March 16-18. For more information and/or to register, call (713) 440-3440. See [www.beginningexperience.org](http://www.beginningexperience.org).

## FEBRUARY—

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**, a special weekend experience, is designed to make good marriages better. It offers communication techniques useful for a lifetime together and offers couples a unique opportunity to look deeply into their relationship together away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life. Its aim is to revitalize Christian marriages. Marriage Encounter will be offered **February 2-4** on the north side of Houston. Contact Zeke & Ashley Metzler at (281) 356-2204 or [eametzler@houston.rr.com](mailto:eametzler@houston.rr.com). M.E. will be offered from **Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, February 9-11** on the south side of Houston. For more information and/or to register, contact Gary & Maribel Arribe at (281) 992-8494 or [garbel\\_wwme@yahoo.com](mailto:garbel_wwme@yahoo.com).

**CALLED IN LOVE: A RETREAT FOR STEPMOTHERS** will be held at the Cenacle Retreat House **Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, February 2-4**. Jacqueline Syrup Bergan, a stepmother for 33 years, will be the retreat director. She is the author of the recently released book, *Growing as a Stepmom-with God's Help*. For more information, contact the Cenacle at (281) 497-3131 or [ministry@cenacletreathouse.org](mailto:ministry@cenacletreathouse.org).

**THE MARRIAGE & FAMILY INSTITUTE, MODULE 4**, sponsored by the University of St. Thomas School of Theology at St. Mary Seminary and the Office of the Diaconate, will offer three courses on Marriage & Family Advocacy and Creating Parish Support for Marriage & Family Life for clergy and lay ministers from **February 8-May 17** at St. Mary Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston. For more information, contact Winnie Honeywell at FLM at [winhoney@archgh.org](mailto:winhoney@archgh.org) or (713) 741-8709. To register, see [www.archgh.org/familylife](http://www.archgh.org/familylife) or contact Deacon Gerald Dupont at (713) 686-4345, ext. 268 or [gwdupont@hughes.net](mailto:gwdupont@hughes.net).

**RETROUVAILLE**, a seven-week program beginning with a weekend retreat **Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, February 9-11**, is designed to help struggling couples make their marriages work. Couples discover how listening, forgiveness, communication and the dialogue process are powerful aids

for building a loving and lasting relationship. The program also will be held May 20-22. Call the Houston-area coordinator, 1-800-470-2230. See [www.retrouville.org](http://www.retrouville.org).

**WORLD MARRIAGE DAY**, sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, is scheduled for **Sunday, February 11**. Help bring the goodness of the Sacrament of Marriage to center stage for one important day! Information about event ideas and samples of a renewal of vows, a homily, intercessions and a blessing is available at [wmd.wmme.org](http://wmd.wmme.org). For more information, contact FLM at (713) 741-8708 or [dfowler@archgh.org](mailto:dfowler@archgh.org).

**NEW LIFE**, a marriage preparation program for remarrying couples in which one or both partners have lost a spouse through divorce or death, will be held **Saturday, February 17**, at the Cameron Retreat Center at St. Dominic Archdiocesan Center. The program also will be offered April 21. Contact FLM at (713) 741-8706 or [mcostner@archgh.org](mailto:mcostner@archgh.org). See [www.archgh.org/familylife/marriagepreparation](http://www.archgh.org/familylife/marriagepreparation) for details and a registration form.

**FAMILY RETREATS AT CIRCLE LAKE RETREAT CENTER** – Help your family grow closer to God through praying, sharing faith, learning and playing together within 45 acres of woods, water and landscaped gardens. For details about Lenten, Spring Break, Memorial Day and Summer family retreats at this wonderful facility just 40 miles north of Houston, call Monica Frazier at (281) 356-6764, ext. 202, or see [www.circlelakeretreat.com](http://www.circlelakeretreat.com).

**A TWO-DAY ARCHDIOCESAN CONVALIDATION PROGRAM** in English will be offered **Saturday, February 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, February 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at Christ the Redeemer Church, 11507 Huffmeister Rd., Houston. The program is designed for civilly-married couples seeking a sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church. The program is limited to 35 couples and the cost is \$50 per couple. Couples must meet with a priest or deacon prior to registering. To register, see [www.archgh.org/familylife](http://www.archgh.org/familylife) or contact FLM at (713) 741-8706 or [mcostner@archgh.org](mailto:mcostner@archgh.org).

**(NEW) CREATING FAMILY RETREAT EXPERIENCES**, a professional growth day co-sponsored by FLM and the Office of Continuing Christian Education, is set for **Tuesday, February 27**. The program will provide the basics and models for family gatherings and retreats for parishes. The presentation team will include Sara Fontana, Monica Frazier, Winnie Honeywell and Alicia Perez. Contact Alicia Perez at (713) 741-8776 or [aperez@archgh.org](mailto:aperez@archgh.org) or Linda Cussen at (713) 741-8797 or [lcussen@archgh.org](mailto:lcussen@archgh.org).

## MARCH—

**CONVALIDACIÓN**, un programa para parejas que desean renovar su consentimiento matrimonial dentro de una nueva unión sacramental. Los próximos cursos que ofreceremos se llevarán a cabo el **3 y 10 de marzo**. Se requiere que la pareja asista los dos días. Para mayor información, por favor comuníquese con la Oficina Arquidiocesana del Ministerio de Vida Familiar al (713) 741-8711 ó envíenos un correo electrónico a [mroman@archgh.org](mailto:mroman@archgh.org).

**HOUSTON WOMEN FOR THE THIRD MILLENNIUM** invites you to save the date of **Saturday, March 3** for its third annual breakfast presentation with guest speaker, Teresa Tomeo, who hosts a daily talk show on Christian radio in Detroit. Mark your calendar today and invite your friends! Affirm your vocation as women and learn how to transform the culture as women. More details to come! Contact Leslie Roppolo at [leslieroppolo@houston.rr.com](mailto:leslieroppolo@houston.rr.com) or call (832) 863-4071.

**RSVP**, a 10-week support program in English and in Spanish for persons in the initial stages of separation, divorce or the death of a spouse, begins **Tuesday, March 6** at the Cameron Retreat Center at St. Dominic Archdiocesan Center. Life patterns change and the process of adjustment can be very difficult if one has to go through it alone. The trauma, pain and agony that accompany a loss can be made bearable and the grief process worked through more effectively with the assistance of others who have had a common experience. Contact Carmen Saucedo at (713) 741-8730, Tommy Black at (281) 543-4641, or FLM at (713) 741-8710.

**THE LIVING COVENANT LENTEN RETREAT** for married couples will be held **Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, March 9-11** at the Circle Lake Retreat in Pinehurst. This retreat is an opportunity for couples to take a step back from all that is going on in their everyday lives and to examine the basic relationships of marriage—with God, with each other, with the family and with society. The retreat begins at 7 p.m. Friday and concludes with a closing Mass after lunch on Sunday. The cost is \$195. Space is limited. Contact FLM at (713) 741-8706 or [mcostner@archgh.org](mailto:mcostner@archgh.org).

**LIVING WITH GRIEF**, the 14th annual national bereavement teleconference of the Hospice Foundation of America, will be aired **Thursday, March 22** from 12:30-3 p.m. at the Chancery at St. Dominic Archdiocesan Center. The free teleconference, Living With Grief: Before and After the Death, will cover anticipatory grief and mourning; meaning-making; life review; assisting families at the moment of death; funerals, memorials, and other rituals and their importance in the grieving process; new insights and

developments in our understanding of grief; implications for practice, including effective interventions, and the importance of self-care for professionals. If you wish to receive continuing education credits (three CE hours unless otherwise noted) or a certificate of attendance, the fee is \$25. Contact FLM at (713) 741-8708 or [dfowler@archgh.org](mailto:dfowler@archgh.org).

**(NEW) A MARRIAGE MINISTRY CONFERENCE** is set for **March 30-31**. Mark your calendar today for this all encompassing conference with keynotes by our archdiocesan bishops, workshops, panel discussions, etc. Review, polish and enrich your marriage preparation skills. Learn to teach a new program or to supplement what you are already doing. Incorporate into your program a session on "Awareness of Abusive Behaviors." For more information, see [www.archgh.org/familylife](http://www.archgh.org/familylife) or contact Alicia Perez at FLM at (713) 741-8776 or [aperez@archgh.org](mailto:aperez@archgh.org).

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#### **Office of Family Life Ministry Staff**

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**FLM Information Lines:** 713.741.8706 (English); 713.741.8714 (Spanish)

**FLM Web Site:** [www.archgh.org/familylife](http://www.archgh.org/familylife)