

FOUR WAYS to Use in Your Diocese

GOD'S PLAN FOR A JOY-FILLED *Marriage*

God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage is a supplement to the existing marriage preparation programs in your diocese. Because the program is a supplement, it is adaptable to almost every diocese or parish situation. Your *God's Plan* representative can work with you to determine how this program can best work with your current preparation efforts.

Whether your diocese has its own program, uses parish-based programs, or hosts independent organizations such as Engaged Encounter, the *God's Plan* program will work for you. Here are four ways the program could be incorporated in your diocesan marriage preparation offerings.

1 EXPAND YOUR CURRENT MARRIAGE PREPARATION OFFERING.

Many diocesan programs currently present a one or two-day marriage preparation experience for couples. Due to the great challenges modern couples face as they struggle against permissive attitudes about sex and the decline of marriage and the family in the culture, many dioceses are now an additional day that specifically focuses on the Catholic vision of marriage. As well, the faith of today's engaged couples is often in need of nourishment and maturation regarding Catholic marriage and human sexuality. The *God's Plan* program provides this comprehensive catechesis. The addition of the *God's Plan* program will yield great practical results in helping to change the hearts and minds of engaged couples.

2 OFFER AS AN OPTIONAL DIOCESAN APPROVED PROGRAM.

The *God's Plan* Program can be offered as a "stand-alone" program offered as another option for engaged couples looking to fulfill their marriage preparation requirement. Instead of adding another day or replacing an existing program, your diocese can simply offer the *God's Plan* program as another option. Depending on your needs, your diocesan office or the *God's Plan* national office would manage the program dates and registrations. The program could be held in various regions of your diocese needing marriage preparation support and be promoted through the diocesan office as another viable option for marriage preparation. Our team can also assist with your marketing efforts, including handling them completely, if needed.



3 REPLACE CURRENT CATECHETICAL PROGRAM WITH GOD'S PLAN.

While an additional formation day for your couples is ideal, we also realize that such a task will be challenging in some dioceses. Yet, the fact remains that today's engaged couples needs more content-rich formation, not less. To address this, you may consider replacing your current catechetical offering with the *God's Plan* program. This means, for example, that your current program's one or two hour presentation on sacramentality and sexuality could be replaced with the longer catechesis, thus adding approximately one-half day to your program. Or, this option could result in the creation of a new weekend retreat wherein the "life skills" (finances, communication, etc) are interspersed with the *God's Plan* catechesis. *God's Plan* offers an excellent format wherein other topics could be introduced in the greater context of the program. Couples would receive a certificate of attendance showing their participation in the program to present to the priest or deacon preparing them for marriage in the Church.

4 SUPPORT IT AS AN INDEPENDENT, APPROVED PROGRAM.

Dioceses face different challenges in trying to offer effective marriage preparation programs. There are some dioceses that do not offer a diocesan-based program and rely on existing parish-based ministries or employ independent organizations to provide sacramental marriage preparation to the engaged couples in their dioceses.

The *God's Plan* program team would seek the permission from your diocese to operate as an independent program. We could work collaboratively with your diocese to market the *God's Plan*. Our team would manage the program with an independent, trained facilitator in your area. As we want to be viewed as a blessing—not a burden to you diocese—we will keep you abreast of how we propose working in your diocese. We are ready and willing to work closely with you on this, or you can handle everything on our own.