

Marriage Enrichment

by Betty Anne Casaretti, Director of Family Life Ministry

In the Pastoral Letter, issued November 17, 2009 Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops stated:

“Among the many blessings that God has showered upon us in Christ, is the blessing of marriage, a gift bestowed by the Creator from the creation of the human race. His hand has inscribed the vocation to marriage in the very nature of man and woman (see Genesis 1:27-28, 2:21-24).”

“The marital vocation is not a private or merely personal affair. Yes, marriage is a deeply personal union and relationship, but it is also for the good of the Church and the entire community. The living-out of marriage takes place within the whole Body of Christ, which serves and in which it finds nourishment.”

As we reflect upon the gift and vocation of marriage we can see the importance of marriage enrichment as part of every married couple’s daily call to grow in holiness and fellowship with God and others.

With this in mind, the Offices of Clergy Personnel and Family Life Ministry offered such an opportunity to deacons and their wives and married couples from throughout the diocese as part of our weekend celebration of marriage. The marriage enrichment workshop was offered on Saturday, February 13th and World Marriage Day was celebrated in parishes on Sunday, February 14th.

On Saturday, February 13, 2010 at The Catholic Center in Bridgeport over sixty five couples gathered to celebrate the vocation of marriage by taking part in a workshop led by Bob and Rita Boeke based on their book, Forever and a Day, An Invitation to Create a Marriage that Lasts a Lifetime.

“It was a day dedicated to married couples for the purpose of strengthening their marital love and commitment. The couples were given the opportunity to remember the hopes and dreams that brought them together, to celebrate the hours, days and years of their life together and to gain insight which will continue to strengthen their love and help it to continue to grow deeper.” shared Betty Anne Casaretti, Director of Family Life Ministry. “It is obvious from the positive response of those that attended the workshop, that Family Life Ministry will continue to offer more Marriage Enrichment events in the near future.”

Several who attended shared:

“What a great way to celebrate the Valentine’s Day weekend. As the day went by, I realized how much I enjoy spending time with my wife... away from the kids. We recalled our journey together with its joys and sorrows, highs and lows, laughter and tears of over 25 years of married life. It was great!” – A couple from Shelton

“The workshop was definitely time well spent. Bob and Rita’s “from the heart” stories were relatable and inspiring. We had a lot of fun together and with the other couples at our table.” - A couple from Stamford

“I loved how we had young and not-so young married couples together at our table! I know my husband and I benefited from their sharing their years of experience. We had a lot of fun!” - A couple married 10 years from Norwalk