

St. Joseph Catholic Church Marriage Preparation FOCCUS – Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding, and Study

MARRIED COUPLES WANTED!

Our responsibility to engaged couples, asking for the Sacrament of Matrimony is to do our best to help them prepare for their wedding day and more so, for a lifetime of love together. Our American culture today does little to support committed relationships. It has become far easier for people to “dispose” whatever is deemed as difficult. Loving relationships take lots of hard work! In an effort to give our engaged couples a healthy direction in their marriages, it is important for us to give them models to look at and hopefully emulate. One area in marriage preparation does just that. We have trained, married couples who meet with engaged couples to help them learn more about themselves and their unique relationship. The process we use is called **FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study)**. After the engaged couple meets with the priest, fills out all the necessary paperwork, the couple is asked to separately, at the same time, fill out a self-diagnostic tool called the **FOCCUS Inventory**. This inventory is then scaled and the results are given to a **FOCCUS Couple** for their review. The **FOCCUS Couple** then arranges to meet with the engaged couple to discuss the results. It is the goal of the **FOCCUS Couple** to initiate communication between the engaged couple which helps name and work through any issues before marriage. It is a wonderful process for the engaged couple and for the **FOCCUS Couple** as well.

The **FOCCUS Ministry** is always calling married couples to join this rewarding process.

Requirements to become a FOCCUS Couple are:

- One spouse has to be Catholic
- Couple has to be married in the Catholic Church
- Couple has to be married more than five years
- Couple has to be in right relationship with the Church
- Couple has to be practicing and living the their Faith

For couples planning to marry, please call the parish office at (321)727.1565 and ask for the pastor.