

Overview

God calls married couples to a life of love that mirrors the love relationship of Christ with the Church. However, living a faith-based marriage in the modern world can be a difficult challenge. We need God's grace to live our covenant with each other: "...to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part".

Living Catholic Marriage is an experience of like-to-like ministry: couples encouraging other couples by their shared experience of living their marriage in faith. It is facilitated by the Marriage Enrichment Ministry of St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, Dana Point CA.

A Marriage Prayer

God, we stand before you,
ever mindful of your presence,
and truly grateful for your many
blessings on our union.

Grace us, loving God,
so that our love for each other may
reflect your love for us.

Grace us, faithful God,
that we may be faithful in love to
each other.

Grace us, compassionate God,
that we may be understanding and
slow to anger.

Grace us, forgiving God,
that we may forgive the other's
failures in love.

Grace us, ever-present God,
that we may be present to each other
in time of need.

Grace us, loving God,
that we may grow in love,
and love you more as we grow.

Living Catholic Marriage



"...and the two shall become one."

***Marriage Enrichment
Through Communication,
Faith, And Community***

Calling Married Couples

Come together with other married couples who want to grow in their love for each other and their Catholic faith. This is a time to enrich your marriage through communication, faith, and fellowship with other married couples.

Objective

Provide an opportunity for married couples to grow in their love for each other, live closer and more faith-filled lives, and gain the support and friendship of other couples in living their Catholic faith.

Approach

The evening consists of a presentation given by a married couple in the Marriage Enrichment Ministry, followed by a time for personal reflection, and private sharing by spouses with each other.

An opportunity is then provided for learning from other couples in the group. The presentations are practical experiences of the presenting couple as they live their marriage. Handouts are provided that summarize the key points of the presentation and provide useful information for continued discussion at home. The evening ends with prayer, refreshments and open fellowship. Couples recognize their marriage is a journey shared with and supported by others.

Topics

Topics for each session are selected from a list of topics of interest to the participating couples. Topics include communication in marriage, living our Catholic faith, and meeting the challenges from being married and raising a family in the modern world.

Each topic is intended to affirm the ways we enrich our marriage and help us to improve where we can do better. Each couple draws from the evening what they want; no one offers advice about how to live the marriage of others, since each marriage relationship is unique.

Who Can Attend

Open to married couples of all ages and years married who want to live their marriage in the faith tradition of the Catholic Church.

Schedule and Location

Meets monthly, usually the first Thursday of each month 7:30-9:00PM. For location, see the church bulletin board, or the weekly bulletin or parish calendar available on the church web site, www.stedward.com.