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# Letter to the Engaged



**DIOCESE OF  
SAN DIEGO** | OFFICE FOR  
FAMILY LIFE &  
SPIRITUALITY

On behalf of our local Catholic community, we congratulate both of you on this most joyous occasion of your engagement to marriage. It is with great pleasure that we accompany you on this “Journey of Your Love” and assist in this important process of marriage formation. May God bless you as you prepare to enter into the Sacrament of Matrimony, a sacred matrimonial covenant.

## Summary of Formation

The marriage preparation process is a multi-phased and collaborative effort under the direction of your local parish community, the diocesan Office for Family Life & Spirituality and Catholic Engaged Encounter. Diocesan guidelines recommend that marriage preparation usually will include the *Celebrating Your Love Diocesan Day (Pre-Cana)* for engaged couples and for civilly married couples. Engaged couples are also encouraged to attend the **Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend**.

**Step One: Meet with your Marriage Preparation Minister.** As soon as your engagement is official, but before you set a date, you should call your parish and schedule a meeting with your marriage preparation minister (priest, deacon, or lay minister), who may also serve as the celebrant for your wedding.

**Step Two: Take the FOCCUS inventory.** FOCCUS is meant to facilitate open, caring, communication, understanding, and study, encouraging couples to discuss a broad range of topics before marriage. A *REFOCCUS inventory* is available to couples who have been civilly married for at least a few years. Your marriage preparation minister will provide directions regarding completion of the questionnaire.

**Step Three: Choose a mentor couple** who can support, encourage, and pray for you throughout—and beyond—the marriage preparation process. Your marriage preparation minister can help you select a mentor couple. Parishes are encouraged to adopt *Witness to Love* as a way of guiding the couple-to-couple relationship.

**Step Four:** Sign up and attend the *Celebrating Your Love Diocesan Day* for engaged and civilly married couples. You can register online ([sdcatholic.org/joyl](http://sdcatholic.org/joyl)) or by returning the attached registration form with suggested payment. **Note:** The *Diocesan Marriage Preparation Registration* must be signed by your marriage preparation minister.

**Step Five:** Couples are encouraged to attend a **Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend**.

Couples entering their second marriage after an annulment or death of former spouse may attend *A New Beginning* as an alternative to the Diocesan Day. See page 2 for more information.



**Witness to Love** is not just another marriage prep program. It is a renewal movement and an ethos centered around fostering community involvement in the marriage preparation process that bears fruit for the entire parish community. It is a unique and virtue-based system of marriage renewal and preparation that prepares engaged couples for sacramental marriage and fosters their transition into a welcoming community of faith before and after they are married.

For more information, visit [witnesslove.org](http://witnesslove.org) or call the Office for Family Life and Spirituality (858-490-8256.)

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**FOCCUS:** Facilitates Open, Caring Communication, Understanding, and Study, encouraging couples to discuss a broad range of topics before they get married and assisting them in their communication and conflict resolution skills. FOCCUS also provides catechetical materials that can be integrated into a parish's marriage catechumenate.

For more information, visit [foccusinc.org](http://foccusinc.org) and/or call the Office for Family Life and Spirituality (858-490-8256) for support.

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**Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend (CEE):** A weekend experience starting on Friday evening and concluding late Sunday afternoon with the celebration of Mass. A priest and two trained team couples will present a selected number of presentations and personal sharing related to their vocation and experiences. **Civily married couples are welcome.**

For further information regarding dates, location and cost visit <http://www.engagedencountersd.org> or email to [sandiegoee@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegoee@gmail.com)

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***Celebrating Your Love Diocesan Day:*** *Celebrating Your Love* (Pre-Cana) is a Saturday retreat (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM) for engaged couples from around the diocese to learn more about what makes Catholic marriage unique and how to renew one's vows daily after the wedding ceremony. Held at various locations 2-3 times per month.

**Cost: \$100 per couple**

OR

***Celebrating Your Love: A New Beginning:*** As an alternative to the ***Diocesan Day***, this program is for couples entering a second marriage after the divorce or the death of a former spouse (only one party needs to have been previously married). Topics of discussion are geared towards blended families, children of a previous marriage (step-parenting) and grieving loss. Younger couples who were previously married for only a short period of time and/or have no children may be better served by attending the ***Diocesan Day***.

**Cost: \$100 per couple**

For retreat dates and locations, visit:

<https://www.sdcatholic.org/joyl>

OR

Contact the Office for Family Life and Spirituality (858-490-8299)

# DIOCESAN MARRIAGE PREPARATION REGISTRATION

## IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please PRINT clearly.
2. Complete both sides of the registration and make sure that your marriage preparation minister (normally priest or deacon) has signed it.
3. Mail this completed form with payment to: **Office for Family Life and Spirituality**
4. *Make checks payable to:* **Diocese of San Diego**  
*Diocese of San Diego* **P.O. Box 85728**  
**San Diego, CA 92186-5728**

**Illegible or incomplete registrations will be returned. Registrations are processed only by mail.**

**Written confirmation of diocesan programs will be emailed to you within two to three weeks of receipt of this registration. If no email is provided, confirmation will be mailed to you within three to four weeks.**

We are:  engaged  civilly married less than 2 years  civilly married longer than 2 years

**GROOM:** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name Age

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or P.O. Box Apt. #

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ W, H, or C EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

BILINGUAL?  No  Yes (2nd language \_\_\_\_\_) RELIGION \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL PARISH \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE?  No  Yes If yes, Divorced?  Widowed?  # of Children \_\_\_\_\_  
Ages \_\_\_\_\_

**BRIDE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name Age

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street or P.O. Box Apt. #

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ W, H, or C EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

BILINGUAL?  No  Yes (2nd language \_\_\_\_\_) RELIGION \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL PARISH \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE?  No  Yes If yes, Divorced?  Widowed? # of Children \_\_\_\_\_  
Ages \_\_\_\_\_

## SELECT MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAMS AND DATES

ARE EITHER OF YOU ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY? \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO

TENTATIVE WEDDING DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ MAIL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  BRIDE  GROOM

THE COUPLE MUST ATTEND PROGRAMS TOGETHER. (If you have a special need, call 858-490-8256.)

**CELEBRATING YOUR LOVE DIOCESAN DAY** (\$100 per couple)

Program schedules can be obtained from your parish or by accessing the Diocesan website at [www.sdcatholic.org/joyl](http://www.sdcatholic.org/joyl)

1st choice—preferred date: \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice—preferred date: \_\_\_\_\_

**CELEBRATING YOUR LOVE: A NEW BEGINNING** (\$100 per couple)

*\*For couples entering a second marriage after the divorce or death of a loved one.*

Program schedules can be obtained from your parish or by accessing the Diocesan website at [www.sdcatholic.org/joyl](http://www.sdcatholic.org/joyl)

## FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION MINISTER

Name, address, and signature of your Marriage Preparation Minister.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION MINISTER \_\_\_\_\_

PARISH \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_ DATE SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

## CLERGYMAN PRESIDING AT THE WEDDING

PRIEST/DEACON \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**JOURNEY  
OF  
YOUR  
LOVE**  
DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

