

New Horizons Program For Couples Entering A Second Marriage

Are you planning to marry for the second time? Or are you engaged to someone who has been married before? If so, you are among a growing number of people who would benefit from the New Horizons program. More than 1,000 couples so far have taken advantage of this special opportunity.

Now in its sixth year, New Horizons is conducted by one of two teams of four married couples (all in second marriages themselves), with a priest or religious on each team. Persons who are in the process of or who have been granted a Church annulment, and those who are entering a second marriage after the death of a spouse, are encouraged to participate.

Since second marriages certainly present special issues and circumstances which differ from those of first marriages, it has been proven very beneficial for both spouses-to-be to attend, even if one of them has not been previously married. Attitudes, experiences and longstanding habits can be shared with each other in an open, honest forum provided by the New Horizons program, assisting the couple to create a favorable climate for marriage.

Self-awareness, communication, sexuality, at-

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itudes, present and future children, former spouses, past and present in-laws, all are areas treated in the sessions, as well as the importance of the sacrament of marriage in the Church and in society today.

Couples who have experienced the program have found it most helpful.

"We thought we communicated well, but found it was only on a superficial basis. This program helped us to look more deeply at our relationship, to think and talk on a deeper level."

"It made us consider things that normally would not have been dealt with,

such as how we view our spiritual life and how our background affects our attitudes toward child-rearing."

Facing a blended family and other complex situations experienced in a second marriage requires additional adjustments not found in a first marriage. The New Horizons program looks realistically at these issues and encourages a practical approach from the beginning which can result in rich and rewarding relationships.

For further information, call Jim and Donna Fitch, Marriage Preparation Coordinators, (716) 436-5450.

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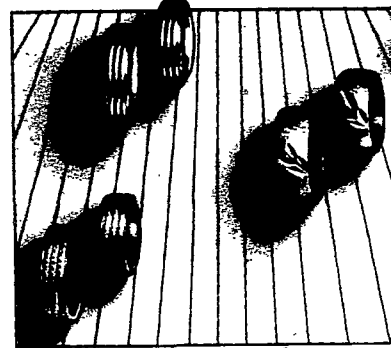
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