



## Diocese offers wide variety of programs in preparation for marriage

The Marriage Preparation Offices of the Diocese of Rochester's three regions each offer a series of marriage preparation classes. Each program is presented by a trained team of married couples and a priest or deacon. They share their experiences and help the engaged couples to explore their relationships, to determine their strengths and weaknesses. The program is an important addition to the personal sessions couples attend with their parish priest or deacon.

Couples planning their weddings should be aware of the following diocesan regulations:

1. Couples should register for programs at least six months prior to the wedding date.

2. Registration for sessions offered by the Genesee Valley and Finger Lakes regions closes one month before the specified session or when filled to capacity.

3. Registration for Southern Tier and Finger Lakes sessions is conducted by telephone only, unless otherwise indicated (see schedules that follow); registration for Genesee Valley sessions is by advance mail only, unless otherwise specified in schedule.

4. A non-refundable registration fee of \$17.50 per couple is required.

5. Certificates are issued to couples upon completion of seven to 10 hours of classroom instruction (hours vary by program).

6. For a wedding in the Finger Lakes or Southern Tier regions when one or both parties is under the age of 18, or when pregnancy is involved, couples should contact the Marriage Preparation Office in that region for Intensive Pre-Cana registration before a wedding date is set.

In addition to these sessions, the following programs are also offered:

**Engaged Encounter** — A weekend away with other engaged couples, designed to

intensively cover topics concerning couples' prospective lives together. See the article below for the dates of upcoming programs.

**New Horizons** — Marriage preparation for couples in which one of both partners have been married previously. Special emphasis is placed on topics relative to couples in a second marriage. Certificates are issued upon completion of 12-hour program. Contact the Social Ministry office in your region.

**Hispanic Pre-Cana, Conferencias Para La Comunidad Hispana** — Hispanic traditions and values are presented for couples with Spanish background. For information and reservations, contact the Spanish Apostolate at (716)328-3210 or the Family Ministries Office at (716)454-7650.

### SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Couples may be referred to one of the following programs due to special circumstances:

**Separation** — Sessions are arranged through the Marriage Preparation Office for couples who are separated for an extended period before the wedding (i.e., one partner is in the military service or lives in another state). Contact the office at (716)454-7650.

**Teenagers** — Arrangements are made to work with the priest/deacon preparing teenagers for the Sacrament of Marriage. Before the wedding date is set, call (716)454-7650 in the Genesee Valley and Finger Lakes regions, or (607)734-9784 in the Southern Tier.

**Pregnancy** — Pregnancy itself is not the determining factor in proceeding with or delaying a marriage. Before the wedding date is set, call (716)454-7650 in the Genesee Valley and Finger Lakes regions, or (607)734-9784 in the Southern Tier to make special arrangements.

## Encounter provides break from preparations

Your wedding will be a very special day, but it's only a day. Marriage is a lifetime of sharing good times and not-so-good times, a lifetime of communicating, a lifetime of caring and a lifetime of loving. It's a relationship that will continually change and grow throughout your life together, and it far exceeds your wedding day.

An Engaged Encounter weekend is an excellent opportunity to build some very special memories of your engagement and your love. Through this weekend you will grow in your love for each other while preparing yourself for a stronger, healthier marriage. It will be an opportunity to take a break from the wedding plans and concentrate solely on each other for an entire weekend. Throughout the weekend, a team of two couples and a priest will discuss marital relationships, struggles and joys, as well as a variety of topics ranging from communication to sexuality and faith. You

will then have time together to share your feelings, thoughts and dreams with your fiancée.

The weekend begins on Friday evening at 8 and ends Sunday with a Mass at 4 p.m. The weekends are held at Keuka College in Penn Yan, and the cost of the weekend is \$100. Engaged Encounter never turns anyone away for financial reasons.

Engaged Encounter weekends will be conducted on the following dates: March 6-8, March 20-22, April 3-5, April 10-12, April 24-26, May 15-17, June 12-14, June 26-28, July 10-12, August 14-16, September 11-13, October 2-4, October 16-18 and November 13-15.

Ideally, couples should participate in Engaged Encounter weekends four to six months before their weddings. For information or to register, contact your pastor or call Steve and Karen Holmes at (716)671-3567.

### Southern Tier (607) 734-9784

Only Telephone Reservations will be accepted. Do NOT send registration card.

Area	Date	Time	Place
Ithaca	Jan. 10, Sat.	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Immaculate Conception 113 N. Geneva Street (607) 273-6121
Elmira	Feb. 1, Sun.	8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	St. Mary's, Stan & Joanne Douglas (607) 732-3965
Elmira	Feb. 24, Tues. March 3 & 10	7:00-10:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Lourdes Marc & Lisa Rustici (607) 732-5816
Owego	March 14, Sat.	8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	St. Patrick's, Mary Jane & Jim Robie (607) 687-4297
Ithaca	March 14, Sat.	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Immaculate Conception (607) 273-6121
Horseheads	March 13 & 14 Fri. & Sat.	Fri.: 7:00-10 p.m. Sat.: 9-2 p.m.	St. Mary Our Mother Joanna & Rick Carroll (607) 562-3859
Hornell	March 14, Sat.	8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	St. Ann's, Larry & Barb Jones (607) 295-7708
Corning	March 20, Fri. March 21, Sat.	Fri.: 7-10 p.m. Sat. 9-1 p.m.	Brennan Center, Judy & Leo Thomas (607) 962-2027
Elmira Heights Wayland	April 4, Sat. April 5, Sun.	8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	St. Charles, Carol & Bruce Beavers (607) 732-5542 St. Joseph's 206 Fremont St. (716) 728-2228
Ithaca	May 2, Sat.	9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	Immaculate Conception (607) 273-6121
Elmira	June 7, Sun.	8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	St. Mary's, Stan & Joanne Douglas (607) 732-3965
Ithaca	June 8 & 10 Mon. & Wed.	7:00-10:00 p.m.	Immaculate Conception (607) 273-6121
Ithaca	Aug 3 & 5 Mon. & Wed.	7:00-10:00 p.m.	Immaculate Conception (607) 273-6121

### Finger Lakes (315) 789-2686

To register, please follow instructions as requested after each session.

Feb. 7	Sat. 8:45 a.m.-5 p.m.	St. Mary's School, Clymer St., Auburn MAIL REGISTRATION ONLY, Beth Liberatore, 19 Silver Ave., Auburn, NY 13021
Feb. 13	Fri. 7-10 p.m.	St. Stephen's, Geneva
Feb. 15	Sun. 2-7 p.m.	REGISTRATION: (315) 789-1124
Feb. 8	Sun. 1:30-6 p.m.	St. Michael's, Newark
Feb. 9	Mon. 7-10 p.m.	REGISTRATION: (315) 331-6753
April 3	Sat. 9-5	St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls REGISTRATION: Marjorie Brophy (315) 568-2391
April 4	8:45 a.m.-5 p.m.	St. Mary's School, Clymer St., Auburn MAIL REGISTRATION ONLY, Beth Liberatore, 19 Silver Ave., Auburn, NY 13021
April 24	Fri. 7-10 p.m.	St. Francis deSales, Geneva
April 26	Sun. 2-6 p.m.	REGISTRATION: Cathy Moore (315) 789-0658
June 6	8:45 p.m.-5 p.m.	St. Mary's School, Clymer St., Auburn MAIL REGISTRATION ONLY, Beth Liberatore, 19 Silver Ave. Auburn, NY 13021
Sept. 25	Fri. 7-10 p.m.	St. Francis deSales, Geneva
Sept. 27	Sun. 2-6 p.m.	REGISTRATION: Cathy Moore (315) 789-0658
Oct. 4	Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.	St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls RESERVATIONS: Marjorie Brophy (315) 568-2391
Dates scheduled individually		St. Michael's, Penn Yan CONTACT: Bob & Esther Young (315) 536-3640 (Home) (315) 536-7459 (Work)

### Genesee Valley (716) 454-7650

Mail registration: Marriage Preparation Office, Office of Social Ministry  
50 Chestnut St., Rochester, NY 14607

March 23, 25, & 27	M-W-F 7:30-10:30 p.m.	St. Thomas the Apostle, Irondequoit
March 15 & 22	Sun. 1-5 p.m.	St. Ambrose
March 21	Sat. 8-11 p.m.	31 Empire Blvd.
March 20	Fr. 7:30-10:30 p.m.	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
March 21	Sat. 9:30-4:30	(Held at Nativity, Brockport)
March 22 & 29	Sun. 1:30-5:30 p.m.	St. Joseph's, Penfield
April 11	Sat. 1-5 p.m.	Holy Ghost, Gates
April 12	Sun. 6-10 p.m.	
May 4, 11 & 18	Mon. 7:30-10 p.m.	St. Vincent dePaul, Churchville
May 15	Fri. 7:30-10:30 p.m.	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
May 16	Sat. 9:30-4:30	(Held at Nativity, Brockport)
May 19, 26 & June 2	Thurs. 7:30-10 p.m.	St. Catherine's, Mendon
May 30	Sat. 7-11 p.m.	Assumption Parish
May 31	Sun. 2-6 p.m.	20 East Ave., Fairport
July 13, 15, 17	M-W-F 7:30-10:30 p.m.	St. Pius X, 3032 Chili Ave.
Sept. 21, 23, 25	M-W-F 7:30-10:30 p.m.	St. Pius X, 3032 Chili Ave.
Oct. 13, 20	Tues. 7:30-9:30 p.m.	Holy Trinity, Webster
Oct. 18	Sun. 2-4:30 p.m.	
Oct. 18 & 25	Sun. 1:30-5:30 p.m.	St. Joseph's, Penfield
Nov. 6 & 7	Fri. & Sat. 7-11 p.m.	St. John's, Fairport

Some parishes have tentatively scheduled programs but have not yet finalized dates.  
Contact your regional office for further information.

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