

# Marriage Preparation, Marriage and Family Enrichment

"Thank you for this great retreat. I am very much at peace. I can't wait to share the many graces I've received with my spouse and children."

- Attendee of men's conference

"This conference is exactly everything my fiancé and I could have ever hoped for - clear, honest testimonials, moving and thoughtful discussions, and we walked away invigorated and filled with more love and confidence towards our wedding day!"

Couple who attended Conference for the Engaged

The Office of Marriage, Family, and Respect Life serves parishes and families throughout the Diocese of Arlington by offering programs pertaining to marriage preparation, marriage and family enrichment.



## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS:

- This office hosted 16 Conferences for the Engaged this year serving nearly 900 couples. These conferences are designed to stimulate reflection and discussion on key aspects of marriage and family life. Some topics that are covered include: Marriage as a Sacrament, Communication, Marital Intimacy, Natural Family Planning, Parenting and the Church & Christian family.
- 1,322 Sacramental Marriages were celebrated in 2019.
- More than 6,000 people receive weekly "2minutes2virtue" videos reflections given by priests of the Diocese of Arlington. They are designed to help Catholics reflect on the Sunday readings and include a weekly faith "challenge".
- 700 men attended the 2019 Men's Conference with Fr. Donald Haggerty and Matt Birk.
- 700 women attended the 2019 Women's Conference with Sr. Brige McKenna and Fr. Don Calloway.
- More than 100 couples attended this year's World Marriage Sunday Mass with Bishop Burbidge.
- More than 200 couples gathered to celebrate their combined 8,175 years of marriage at the Annual Mass for Jubilarians marking 25 and 50 years of marriage
- This office continues to hold quarterly morning retreats at various churches throughout the diocese for those struggling with divorce as well as an annual retreat weekend for adult children of divorce.

STEADFAST IN *faith* AND JOYFUL IN *hope*