

ARCHDIOCESE OF HARTFORD
OFFICE OF FAMILY LIFE
CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER

OVERVIEW: **Catholic Engaged Encounter** is a weekend retreat designed to assist you in preparing couples for marriage in the Catholic Church. **CEE** is the only group experience program that provides couples with an uninterrupted, extended period of time away from daily distractions while synthesizing important components of marriage preparation including:

1. In depth and personalized presentations by married couples, priests and religious which target:

RELATIONSHIP SKILLS:

Self-awareness
Communication
Conflict Resolution
Financial Honesty
Decision-making
Forgiveness

CATHOLIC TEACHING:

Unity and Intimacy
Marriage as Vocation
Marriage as Sacrament
Human Sexuality
Natural Family Planning
Stewardship

2. Private individual and couple time following presentations for writing, reflection and discussion.
3. A retreat format allowing for team-participant relationships to grow and stimulate openness.
4. Mass and prayer services. (Sacrament of Reconciliation depending on priest's availability).

HISTORY: **CEE** grew out of the Marriage Encounter movement in the 1960's and began in Hartford in the early 1970's. The program is conducted across the U.S. and in many foreign countries. **CEE** utilizes a national/international outline insuring program consistency in all **CEE** communities.

PROGRAM REVISION: The **CEE** outline has undergone a revision to ensure that the retreat program will catalyze results for today's engaged couples who continue to come from diverse backgrounds, cultures and life-experiences. The opportunity for evangelization is heightened as couples are often re-connecting to the Catholic faith as they prepare for marriage in the Church.

WHAT ENGAGED COUPLES SAY ABOUT CEE:

"We have a greater understanding of marriage as a Sacrament and the impact our marriage has on society as a whole. We also have a better understanding of God's presence in our relationship."

"We have a deeper understanding of each other and of the Sacrament of marriage that would not have been possible without this weekend."

"We became grounded in our relationship and were brought back to what really matters – our love, God and a new life together."

"EE reaffirmed our confidence and trust in our relationship and we will now begin to have an aspect of spirituality that was not there before."

UPCOMING WEEKENDS:

When: Nov. 11-12, March 11-12, 2017
Where: Archdiocesan Center at St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield, CT
Time: 7:30 a.m. Saturday to 3:00 p.m. Sunday **Cost:** \$300.00 per couple

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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