

Spring Marriage Supplement

A special section of The Criterion celebrating Christian marriage

Be transformed: Church offers opportunity for marriage accompaniment

By Gabriela Ross

One of the most popular readings at weddings is 1 Cor 13: “Love is patient, love is kind” A lesser known but favorite reading of mine is



Rom 12:1-2, 9-18: “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds. . . . Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.”

I love this reading because it reminds married couples of the source of their love, the meaning of their vocation and the core of their mission toward one another and for the world.

Whether a couple is preparing for their vocation of marriage, embracing the joy of newly married love or perfecting their love through the joys and trials of life, this Scripture passage provides an opportunity to get back to the basics, remember the power of God’s love and grace in our relationships, and be encouraged for the work of charity in the world, which is the vocation of all the laity.

While this reading calls married couples back to the source of their vocation, the Church envisions that couples will be supported in their married vocation.

Pope Francis explains: “The goal is to walk an important stretch of road together with couples in the journey of life, even after the wedding, especially during moments of crisis or discouragement” (preface to *Catechumenal Pathways for Married Life*, Dicastery of Laity, Family and Life, 2022).

The pope is painting a vision of accompaniment for married life. Indeed, in 2022, the universal Church was called to reflect on pastoral ministry to married couples before and in the years after their wedding. The Church envisions that “couples need to be invited to become part of the ordinary family ministry in their parish or the Church community with which they have established some connection” (*Catechumenal Pathways*, #84).

What does this mean? As a Church, we should not only be preparing couples for marriage, but also supporting them in their married life, at the local parish level. This is a form of pastoral accompaniment and truly a moment of ongoing evangelization and catechesis.

In the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, we partner with pastors and parish leaders to create a vision for marriage ministry at the local parish level. Through our website and monthly newsletter, we spread the word about great events and opportunities for married couples to grow in their vocation. We also invite couples celebrating a milestone anniversary to participate in the annual Archdiocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass, to be renewed in their joy and commitment to their wedding vows.

In this issue of *The Criterion*, I invite you to learn about the apostolates and conferences available in central and southern Indiana to support the married couples in your community.

If your parish is interested in supporting the evangelization, catechesis and pastoral accompaniment of married couples, we would love to connect with you and have a conversation.

(Gabriela Ross serves as director of the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The Office of Marriage and Family Life exists to promote the vocation, restoration and mission of the family. Learn more about this ministry at marriageandfamily.archindy.org.) †



Aaron and Ava Pfeiffer, members of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis, pose with their 1-year-old son Ezra. (Submitted photo)

Two upcoming retreats give opportunities for married couples to reconnect

By Natalie Hoefer

Unless couples devote intentional time to communicate, pray and have fun, marriage can become a stagnant, unfulfilling routine of tasks repeated day in and day out. Spouses can become disconnected or even become strangers to each other.

A conference or weekend retreat focused on spouses reconnecting can not only break the routine cycle but pave the way for a healthier, more fulfilling, Christ-centered marriage.

Two such opportunities will be available to married couples in the archdiocese this spring.

The first to take place is a Together in Holiness (TIH) marriage enrichment conference at St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis on April 27. This event is an offering of the national St. John Paul II Foundation and offers an additional opportunity for couples to grow in holiness through an optional TIH Formation Series with other couples after the retreat.

The second opportunity is a Celebrate Marriage Getaway Weekend at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis on May 31-June 2. Organized by Celebrate Marriage, a local ministry founded by members of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, the weekend will offer opportunities to celebrate fellowship, fun and community with other married couples.

‘The domestic Church is made for community’

As a father of 10 (and “husband of one”), Ryan Hanning is familiar with the different directions in which family life can pull spouses.

“So many things compete for our attention,” says

Hanning, the presenter for the upcoming TIH conference at St. Jude. “It’s essential that we make time to come together in prayer and refocus on the most important first things in family life—and specifically in the life of the Church, to be reminded of the mission God has given them and that the Church has entrusted them with.”

The theme for the April 27 conference is “Family: a Seedbed of Vocations.”

“It’s about the eucharistic mission of families and how families can develop vocations by virtue of being a family,” says Hanning, a professor of Church history and theology and fellow of the non-profit San Juan Diego Institute based in Phoenix. “The family is the perfect and preferred setting to be able to hear that call.”

Hanning will offer two talks during the 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. conference, which begins with Mass. Archdiocesan director of vocations Father Michael Keucher will also speak at the event. Opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation, adoration and Benediction will be available during the lunch break.

“Family life is messy and full of challenges,” Hanning notes. “To be able to walk and navigate those challenges with other parents who know the real-life struggle and challenging call to raise our children as saints is something we ought to do more of.”

To help in that goal, the TIH experience includes an optional opportunity for couples to form TIH Formation Series groups.

The seven-part series for small groups offers “year-round marriage enrichment for Catholic spouses [through] a community of accompaniment with other like-minded couples, equipping them with the formation, encouragement, support and practical tools to grow together in holiness

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Editor’s Note:

Twice a year, The Criterion produces Marriage Supplements celebrating recent and upcoming Catholic marriages while also sharing the works of the archdiocese’s Office of Marriage and Family Life.

This current supplement features 43 couples who submitted their wedding announcement to The Criterion.

It also features an article on two marriage enrichment opportunities and an article on two marriage apostolates. The supplement also provides a schedule of upcoming marriage preparation programs and information on how to submit marriage announcements for our next Marriage Supplement in August 2024.)

Wedding Announcements

Altenberger-Collins



Allison Mary Altenberger and Sean Patrick Collins will be married on May 10 at Resurrection Church in Miramar Beach, Fla. The bride is the daughter of Pete and Jackie Altenberger. The groom is the son of Charlie and Debbie Collins.

Confer-Cyzon



Caroline Morrell Confer and Ethan Gregory Cyzon will be married on May 10 at St. Matthew the Apostle Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Hans and Linda Confer. The groom is the son of Jeffery and Renee Cyzon.

Gerstbauer-Myers



Monica Kay Gerstbauer and Tyler Jacob Myers were married on Oct. 28, 2023, at St. Louis Church in Batesville. The bride is the daughter of Mike and Cindy Gerstbauer. The groom is the son of Donald and Susan Myers.

Huffine-Boudreau



Holly Huffine and Justin Boudreau will be married on April 12 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Cheryl and the late Brian Huffine. The groom is the son of Donald and Joi Boudreau.

Leon-Stalf



Mary Letha Leon-Stalf and Ralph Harold Stalf, Jr., had their marriage convalidated on Oct. 26, 2023, at St. Martin Church, a campus of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County.

Padgett-Rivelli



Grace Elizabeth Padgett and Nicholas Don Rivelli were married on Jan. 27 at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Kevin Padgett and Shannon McGinnis. The groom is the son of Joe and Melinda Rivelli.

Amberger-Deal



Rachel Lynn Amberger and Nicholas Isaiah Deal will be married on May 11 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Enochsburg, a campus of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Decatur County. The bride is the daughter of Kurt and Becky Amberger. The groom is the son of Brayton and Jeneen Deal.

Dewes-Castle



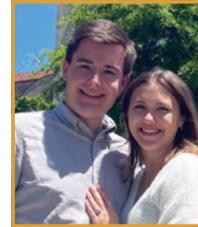
Elizabeth Dewes and Tyler Castle were married on Feb. 10 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of James and Rita Dewes. The groom is the son of Roger and Marlene Castle.

Ginn-Schuman



Rebecca Elizabeth Ginn and Mitchell Kenneth Schuman will be married on June 15 at St. Joseph Church, a campus of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County. The bride is the daughter of Daniel and Deborah Ginn. The groom is the son of Kenneth and Cathy Schuman.

Jewell-Lewis



Ashley Lauren Jewell and Andrew Christopher Lewis will be married on May 18 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Steve and Elizabeth Jewell. The groom is the son of Christopher Lewis and Sandy Quinlivan.

Lorentz-Slovacek



Sydney Kate Lorentz and Brendan Alexander Slovacek will be married on July 5 at St. Barnabas Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of John and Tasha Lorentz. The groom is the son of the Mark and Cynthia Slovacek.

Quinn-Romero



Lisa Courtney Quinn and Marcelo Avila Romero will be married on March 9 at St. Thomas More Church in Mooresville.

Awada-Burt



Christina Odile Awada and Alexander George Burt were married on Sept. 8, 2023, at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Ed and Marie Awada. The groom is the son of Kenneth and Paula Burt.

Duncan-Murphy



Erin Brooke Duncan and Joey Martin Murphy will be married on June 15 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jerry and Elaine Duncan. The groom is the son of Jim and Shirley Murphy.

Gray-Martini



Meghan Elizabeth Gray and Michael Jerome Martini were married on July 8, 2023, at St. Martin Church, a campus of All Saints Parish in Dearborn County. The bride is the daughter of Steve Gray and Laurie Fisher. The groom is the son of Bill and Cathy Martini.

Kay-Callaghan



Erin Margaret Kay and Nicholas Vincent Callaghan will be married on April 13 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Michael Kay and Laurie Sirene. The groom is the son of Jerome and Anne Callaghan.

Lucchese-Brooks



Grace Genevieve Antonella Lucchese and Carson Robert Brooks were married on July 7, 2023, at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Matthew Lucchese and Mary Habiby-Lucchese. The groom is the son of Martin and Jennifer Brooks.

Rake-Irving



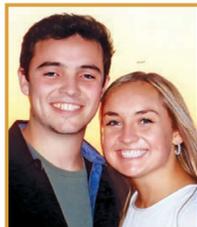
Olivia Grace Rake and James William Irving will be married on May 4 at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Theresa and the late Thomas Rake. The groom is the son of Paul and Therese Irving.

Bennett-O'Connor



Emily Ann Bennett and Nicholas Daniel O'Connor will be married on June 7 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Craig and Mary Jane Bennett. The groom is the son of John and Jane O'Connor.

Fey-Dill



Laura Anne Fey and Michael Grant Dill will be married on June 21 at St. Jude Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Steve and Marnie Fey. The groom is the son of Joe and Joelle Dill.

Haase-Hooker



Stella Maria Hooker-Haase and Mark Troy Hooker had their marriage convalidated on July 31, 2023, at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington.

Keller-Weiler



Sophia Keller and Joe Weiler will be married on July 5 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington. The bride is the daughter of Joe and Amy Keller. The groom is the son of Don and Lisa Weiler.

Matchett-LaCoursiere



Roarke O'Shea Matchett and Chase LaCoursiere will be married on June 29 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Ashley and Teresa Matchett. The groom is the son of Darin and Laurie LaCoursiere.

Reams-Wright



Sarah Lee Reams and Ethan Lee Wright will be married on June 22 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington. The bride is the daughter of Stephen and Anne Reams. The groom is the son of Aaron Wright and Melissa White.

Bopp-Crowder



Lydia Grace Bopp and Seth Adam Crowder will be married on April 20 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of James, Jr., and Christine Bopp. The groom is the son of Rick and Sarah Bender.

Ferguson-Mohr



Lexi Ferguson and Drew Mohr were married on Aug. 19, 2023, at St. Matthew the Apostle Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Tom and Terri Ferguson. The groom is the son of Andy and Lorna Mohr.

Halloran-Hernick



Delaney Terese Halloran and Michael Thomas Hernick were married on Nov. 11, 2023, at Christ the King Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Kevin and Jennifer Halloran. The groom is the son of Donald and Deborah Hernick.

Kerby-Dickinson



Kelsey Ann Kerby and Andrew Douglas Dickinson were married on Dec. 30, 2023, at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Richard and Mary Ann Kerby. The groom is the son of Douglas and Karen Dickinson.

McConkey-Albers



Sarah Anne McConkey and Zachary Thomas Albers will be married on May 11 at St. Agnes Church in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of Terry and Joan McConkey. The groom is the son of George and Denise Albers.

Robinson-Rutter



Briana Brooke Robinson and Evan Robert Rutter will be married on June 8 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Ron Hart and Robin Robinson. The groom is the son of Robert and Dawn Rutter.

Burger-Anderson



Laura Rita Burger and Carl Eugene Anderson will be married on March 23 at St. Mary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Paul and Jennifer Burger. The groom is the son of Chris and the late Dawn Anderson.

Flynn-Lutz



Helen Eileen Flynn and Daniel Kerry Lutz were married on Dec. 31, 2023, at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Joseph and Kathleen Flynn. The groom is the son of Kerry and Gail Bogordos Lutz.

Hornak-Cope



Sarah Elizabeth Hornak and Dylan David Cope were married on Dec. 30, 2023, at St. Mary Church, a campus of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Richmond. The bride is the daughter of Steve and Angela Hornak. The groom is the son of David Cope and Dianna Cope-Steinbrunner.

Landini-Sanders



Abbey Lynn Landini and Anthony Christian Sanders will be married on June 21 at St. Agnes Church in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of Bruce and Amber Landini. The groom is the son of Anthony and Christine Sanders.

Orme-Leising



Macey Claire Orme and Adam Christopher Leising were married on Oct. 6, 2023, at St. Mary Church in Rushville. The bride is the daughter of Gregory and Michelle Orme. The groom is the son of Allen and Kristina Leising.

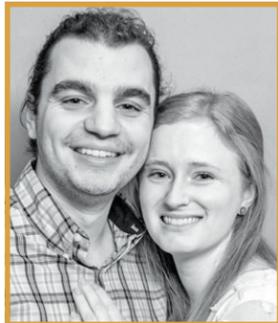
Sasso-Schmahl



Willa Ruth Sasso and Andrew Douglas Schmahl were married on Oct. 28, 2023, at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Rick and April Sasso. The groom is the son of Jeffrey and Donna Schmahl.

Wedding Announcements

Schultz-Knight



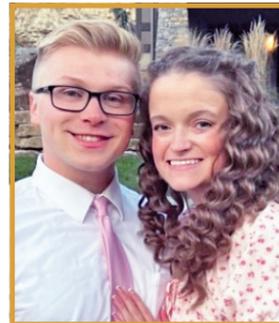
Valerie Alyson Schultz and Joseph Henry Knight will be married on March 23 at Christ the King Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Robert and Diane Schultz. The groom is the son of Dale and Maria Knight.

Shepler-Gatto



Allison Kathleen Shepler and Thomas Vincent Gatto will be married on April 13 at Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of David and Kathleen Shepler. The groom is the son of Anthony and Cynthia Gatto.

Tuttle-Hudepohl



Lindsey Renee Tuttle and Gabriel Walter Hudepohl will be married on July 6 at St. Nicholas Church in Ripley County. The bride is the daughter of Tim and Theresa Tuttle. The groom is the son of Anthony and Rita Hudepohl.

Shafer-Cozzens



Olivia Ann Shafer and Paul Anthony Cozzens will be married on April 13 at SS. Mary and John Church in Evansville (Diocese of Evansville). The bride is the daughter of Matt and Cheryl Shafer. The groom is the son of Chris and Charlene Cozzens.

Shishman-Mangas



Megan Marie Shishman and Jacob Owen Mangas were married on July 15, 2023, at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington. The bride is the daughter of Scott and Deb Shishman. The groom is the son of Tim and Ann Mangas.

Vasil-Skelly



Mary Therese Vasil and Thomas James Skelly will be married on July 6 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of David and Anne Marie Vasil. The groom is the son of Jerome and Lydia Skelly.

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as spouses and parents and to form their children in the Catholic faith," according to the TIH website.

Aaron Pfeiffer, who with his wife Ava took part in a group last year, says the series helped the couple understand that "the domestic Church is made for community."

As a young couple—the members of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish in Indianapolis were married in September 2022 and have a 1-year-old son—the Pfeiffers appreciated having "other couples to talk to and bounce ideas off of."

The Formation Series consists of seven meetings through the course of a year. Each meeting centers on a topic that applies to an overall theme that changes each year. After sharing a meal, couples read Scripture and discuss the topic laid out in the TIH material.

"My favorite part of the meeting is the 'Bring It Home' section where they give practical things for you and your spouse to discuss and implement at home," says Aaron. "It forces us to communicate about what we learned in the previous session and helps you get more out of [the series]."

The Pfeiffers plan to participate in the next TIH formation series.

"You have to put your spouse before your kids," says Ava. "Your kids need so much, you can lose sight of your marriage. You have to keep in mind that your marriage is still the big piece of that foundation, keeping that first. Then the family flows from there. Your children learn from your example."

A getaway to 'connect, have fun'

In 2010, Marcy and Tom Renken attended a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Retreat eight years into their marriage.

"We came out of it on fire for each other and for marriage being a covenant calling," Tom told *The Criterion* in a July 15, 2016, article.

The Renkens, members of Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood, founded Celebrate Marriage in 2011. The ministry's mission is to help Catholic couples of all ages "live your marriage by God's design, reconnect, and have fun" by offering Christ-centered enrichment, says Marcy.

Those opportunities cover four areas: Celebrate Romance, a February dinner and dance; Celebrate Fun, an evening of games and competitions; Celebrate Marriage, an annual day-long conference focused on improving relationships and keeping God at the center of marriage; and an overarching theme of Celebrate Community.

That last theme is to help couples understand "your marriage is bigger than you are," Tom explains. "It's not just for the two of you but also for your children, your friends, your family, your Church."

Joy is another overarching aspect of Celebrate Marriage.

"We hear all the time, 'Marriage is work.' Yes, marriage can have challenges," says Tom. "But we believe that, with God and the right attitude, it's meant to be joyful, not all work."

That joy will shine through as the ministry offers its first Celebrate Marriage Getaway Weekend at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis on May 31-June 2.

"It's going to hit on all four areas of what our ministry offers," says Marcy.

"The theme of the weekend will be 'Connection'—connection to each other as a couple, to our family, to our community and to our faith."

The event will include talks offering tools for "a stronger, more connected marriage," she says.

Throughout the weekend, Marcy adds, participants will have the opportunity to connect with other couples "to share experiences, build friendships and grow together—with lots of fun activities, too!"

She says she and Tom are "very excited" about the weekend getaway.

"We've been wanting to do some sort of weekend experience for some time now," she says. "It gives couples the opportunity to experience all our events in a single weekend and come away with new energy in their marriage and keep the spark alive in their marriage."

The retreat came about through Jennifer Burger, program manager of Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, contacting the Renkens.

Weiss-Fritchley



Allyson M. Weiss and Eric R. Fritchley were married on July 8, 2023, at St. Malachy Church in Brownsburg. The bride is the daughter of Bryan and Kathy Weiss. The groom is the son of William and Karen Fritchley.

"Knowing how meaningful our Tobit marriage prep weekends are for couples getting ready to receive the sacrament of marriage, we wanted to offer a program that would bring couples from newly married to many years of marriage together to hear a speaker and offer an opportunity to reflect and celebrate the bond each shares as husband and wife," says Burger.

Her idea and the Renkens' vision for a weekend retreat meshed. When the weekend of May 31 through June 2 suddenly became free, Burger says she knew the event "was meant to be, and we're delighted to partner with Celebrate Marriage to sponsor the inaugural Celebrate Marriage Getaway Weekend here at Fatima this year."

The Renkens are passionate about strengthening and growing Christ-centered marriages. They've helped couples start Celebrate Marriage at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ and St. Joan of Arc parishes in Indianapolis. They've also helped establish a Celebrate Romance dinner/dance at St. Thomas More Parish in Mooresville.

"Marriage is the foundation of our families, which is the foundation of the Church, the foundation of communities and the world around us," says Marcy. "Without strong marriages, everything starts to crumble."

(The April 27 Together in Holiness conference at St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$54 per couple and \$35 per individual through May 11, after which the price is \$64 per couple and \$40 per individual. Childcare for children ages 2-12 is \$5 per child. Scholarships for couples and individuals are available. For more information or to register, go to forlifeandfamily.org/events/th24-inin or contact Heather Grimes at 832-779-1070 or heather@forlifeandfamily.org. The Celebrate Marriage Getaway Weekend will be held at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House in Indianapolis on May 31-June 2. The event starts with check-in at 6 p.m. on Friday and ends after 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday. The cost per couple is \$450 through May 17, and \$500 after. The cost includes one room for two nights, three meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. To register, go to bit.ly/CMGetaway2024 or contact Lisa Coons at 317-545-7681 or lcoons@archindy.org. For questions on the event, contact Jennifer Burger at 317-545-7681, ext. 106, or jburger@archindy.org. For more information about Celebrate Marriage, go to celebratemarriageministry.com.) †



Couples pose during a Celebrate Fun event, sponsored by the Celebrate Marriage ministry, at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish in Greenwood in 2019. (Submitted photo)

Apostolates help married couples grow in faith, develop supportive community

By Natalie Hoefler

Pope Francis recently commented on the importance of marriage and the family.

Marriage is “an extraordinary good, a good of extraordinary value for everyone—for the spouses themselves, for their children, for all families with whom they form relationships, for the entire Church, for all of humanity,” he told members of the Roman Rota, the Vatican-based marriage tribunal, on Jan. 27.

But marriage can pose challenges. Perhaps its learning to find balance, as Kathy and Victor Lara of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish in Indianapolis experienced. Or it could be communications, as was the case for Kevin and Judy Killigrew of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington.

To improve their marriage and grow in holiness, each couple became involved in a Catholic apostolate—the Christian Family Movement for the Laras and Teams of Our Lady for the Killigrews.

Such apostolates help Catholic couples live out their sacramental marriage in fellowship with other Catholic couples. The result is the growth in holiness, as Pope Francis said, “for the spouses themselves, for their children, for all families with whom they form relationships, for the entire Church, for all of humanity.”

CFM is like ‘a school for marriage’

Kathy and Victor Lara had struggled for a good part of their 18-year marriage.

“I took care of the children, and he did work, and we couldn’t find a way to balance everything and how to work as a team,” says Kathy. “For years, we struggled with that and were considering divorce.”

Joining the Christian Family Movement (CFM) at their home parish of St. Gabriel the Archangel in Indianapolis turned their marriage around.

“It made a great impact on us, a 180-degree change,” she says.

Victor is quick to agree, noting that CFM helped the couple realize “we have to invite God to live with us, otherwise

we can’t find that perfect balance.”

CFM, which began in Chicago in the 1940s, is listed in the U.S. Catholic Bishops’ Directory of Lay Movements, Organizations and Professional Associations.

According to its website, CFM “strives to equip families to intentionally address the concerns facing families in modern society, to help them discover ways to grow in holiness themselves and as families, and, ultimately, to bring the light of Christ into their environments.”

Members of the movement meet every two weeks in small groups of couples, allowing time for prayer, reflection on Scripture and social time.

During the meetings, they also use CFM books to discuss questions on topics affecting families and society, employing a method of “observe, judge, act.” This method allows couples “to see the facts of their everyday lives, to judge them in the light of the Gospel and Catholic social teaching, and to act on their new insights and change and transform their immediate [lives] as well as the larger society,” the website explains.

“We act by making a commitment,” says Kathy. “Like, if we see we’re not communicating well, we focus on each couple and what they need to work on for two weeks and then see how it went two weeks later. It’s like accompanying couples throughout marriage.”

Each small group—and a few times a year, all the groups together—also gather as families for picnics, game nights and other fun gatherings. By couples living out their faith, she says, “We believe children will see their example and live out their faith, too.”

Priests play a large role in CFM. As a local coordinating couple, the Laras meet with a priest who “guides us and tells us more about the topic [of an upcoming meeting]. Then we go talk to the families with more understanding. It’s important for them to share their knowledge with us.”

While Hispanics comprise the majority of local participants—CFM is also active at St. Patrick Parish in Indianapolis—the movement is for all Catholics, regardless of race, ethnicity or language.

“To me, this is a school for marriage,” says Victor. “We’re in love with the Christian Family Movement because it helps our families, it helps our kids, and it helps others.”

TOOL is ‘a blessing for our marriage’

After more than 35 years of marriage and raising three children, Kevin and Judy Killigrew were seeking a change.

“We were just looking for more spirituality in our marriage,” says Kevin.

“Something to help build our faith as a married couple,” Judy adds. “To work to have God as the center of our marriage and just to grow stronger in our marriage.”

They learned about Teams of Our Lady (TOOL) through their home parish, St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington, and joined six years ago.

“It’s been a blessing for our marriage,” says Judy, noting she and Kevin celebrated their 43rd anniversary on Jan. 17.

The TOOL movement began in France in 1938. In 2002, it received official recognition from the Vatican as a movement.

TOOL is “an international lay movement in the Catholic Church designed to enrich marriage spirituality and make good marriages better,” explains the apostolate’s website.

Through monthly meetings of small groups of couples (called Teams) from a local area (Teams are not parish-based), it says, TOOL provides “a proven method of increasing and improving prayer life, which will help couples grow closer to God and each other. At the same time, their family will reap the benefits as well.”

The Killigrews have found this to be true for their own Team, one of seven in the Bloomington area. Eight Teams are also active on the west side of Indianapolis.

While the Killigrews appreciate their group of longer-married couples, Judy says she wishes she and Kevin had known about TOOL when they were young and starting a family.

“The benefit of Teams of Our Lady with younger married couples starting life together and having children is they have a wonderful support group to bounce off questions,” says Judy. “I see such a neat bond developing between

those mothers and the husbands that I would’ve given anything to have when I was their age.”

During the monthly gatherings rotated among Team members’ homes, couples enjoy a meal, sharing their highs and lows of the prior month. The group then moves into a time of Gospel reading, prayer intentions and discussion based on TOOL reading material.

Each Team also has a priest as a spiritual advisor who serves as a guide, joins their meetings and offers Team retreats.

TOOL “keeps couples praying as a couple,” says Dominican Father Dennis Woerter, spiritual advisor for the Killigrew’s group and a parochial vicar at St. Paul Catholic Center. “That’s basic, but that’s something that is really important.”

Prayer is lived out in each couple’s marriage through TOOL’s “Endeavors”: regular Scripture reading, daily individual prayer, daily couple and family prayer, a monthly meeting of the spouse to discern God’s movement in their marriage, a private endeavor for improvement, and participation in an annual Team retreat.

“It’s a good way to mix socially and spiritually together,” says Kevin. “We support each other through health challenges, raising kids, kids growing up and moving out on their own.”

“That’s kind of what Teams is all about—creating a spiritual component in your life and sharing it with other couples.”

(For more information on the Christian Family Movement [CFM], go to www.cfm.org. To inquire about bringing CFM to your parish, contact Giovanni and Norma Chavez, 915-803-5840.

For more information on Teams of Our Lady in the Bloomington area, contact Kevin and Judy Killigrew at jkilligrew@gmail.com or kevinkilligrew@hotmail.com. For information about Teams in Indianapolis or elsewhere in the archdiocese, contact Rick and Andrea Rader at lakemi-rc@teamsofourlady.org. For more information on Teams of Our Lady in general, go to www.teamsofourlady.org.) †



Teams of Our Lady “Sector couples”—couples who coordinate smaller teams within a geographical area in the U.S.—pose for a photo in Our Lady of Loretto Church in Foxfield, Colo., during a training weekend in July of 2023. (Submitted photo)

El Movimiento Familiar Cristiano es como ‘una escuela para el matrimonio’

Por Natalie Hoefler

Kathy y Víctor Lara habían enfrentado dificultades durante buena parte de sus 18 años de matrimonio.

“Yo cuidaba a los niños y él trabajaba, y no encontrábamos la manera de equilibrarlo todo y de trabajar en equipo”—recuerda Kathy—. “Durante años, tuvimos dificultades por eso y estuvimos considerando divorciarnos.”

Unirse al Movimiento Familiar Cristiano de su parroquia San Gabriel Arcángel de Indianápolis hizo que su matrimonio diera un vuelco.

“Causó un gran impacto en nuestro matrimonio, un cambio de 180 grados,” afirma.

Víctor se apresura a estar de acuerdo, señalando que el Movimiento Familiar ayudó a la pareja a darse cuenta de que “tenemos que invitar a Dios a vivir con nosotros; de lo contrario, no podremos encontrar ese equilibrio perfecto.”

El Movimiento Familiar Cristiano, que comenzó en Chicago en la década de 1940, figura en el Directorio de movimientos laicos, organizaciones y asociaciones profesionales de los obispos católicos de Estados Unidos.

Según su página web, el Movimiento Familiar “se esfuerza por equipar a las familias para abordar intencionadamente las preocupaciones a las que se enfrentan en la sociedad moderna, para ayudarles a descubrir formas de crecer en santidad ellos mismos y como familias y, en última instancia, para llevar la luz de Cristo a sus entornos.”

Los miembros del movimiento se reúnen cada dos semanas en pequeños grupos de parejas, dejando tiempo para la oración, la reflexión sobre las Escrituras y tiempo para socializar.

Durante las reuniones, también utilizan los libros del Movimiento Familiar para analizar temas que afectan a las familias y a la sociedad, empleando un método de “observar, juzgar, actuar,” mediante el cual las parejas pueden “ver los hechos de su vida cotidiana, juzgarlos a la luz del Evangelio y de la doctrina social católica, actuar a partir de sus nuevas percepciones y cambiar y transformar sus [vidas] inmediatas, así como la sociedad en general,” explica la página web.

“Actuamos al hacer un compromiso”—afirma Kathy—. “Por ejemplo, si vemos que no nos comunicamos bien, nos enfocamos en cada pareja y en lo que necesitan trabajar durante dos semanas y luego vemos cómo les ha ido dos semanas después. Es como un acompañamiento de la pareja durante el matrimonio.”

Cada pequeño grupo y algunas veces al año, todos los



Norma y Giovani Chávez, coordinadores del Movimiento Familiar Cristiano para Indiana y Ohio, se toman una selfie con los líderes y coordinadores de Indiana en la parroquia St. Patrick en Indianápolis el 29 de julio de 2023. (Foto enviada)

grupos juntos se reúnen también como familias para hacer picnics, noches de juegos y otras reuniones divertidas. Asegura que cuando la pareja vive su fe “creemos que los niños verán su ejemplo y vivirán también su fe.”

Los sacerdotes desempeñan un papel importante en el Movimiento Familiar. Como pareja coordinadora local, los Lara se reúnen con un sacerdote que “nos orienta y nos cuenta más sobre el tema [de la próxima reunión]. Así vamos a hablar con las familias equipados con una comprensión más amplia; por eso es importante que nos compartan sus conocimientos.”

Aunque los hispanos constituyen la mayoría de los participantes locales (el Movimiento Familiar

también tiene presencia en la parroquia de San Patricio de Indianápolis), es para todos los católicos, independientemente de su raza, etnia o idioma.

“Para mí, esta es una escuela para el matrimonio” declara Víctor. “Estamos enamorados del Movimiento Familiar Cristiano porque ayuda a nuestras familias, ayuda a nuestros hijos y ayuda a los demás.”

(Para obtener más información sobre el Movimiento Familiar Cristiano, visite www.cfm.org. Para informarse sobre cómo llevar el Movimiento Familiar a su parroquia, comuníquese con Giovani y Norma Chávez al 915-803-5840.) †

Pre-Cana Retreats, Tobit Weekend and One in Christ program prepare engaged couples for marriage

Criterion staff report

Three marriage preparation programs offered in the archdiocese—the Pre-Cana Retreat, Tobit Weekend and One in Christ—help prepare engaged couples for the sacrament of marriage as well as the challenges of married life.

Early registration is recommended for all programs, as each fills up quickly.

Pre-Cana Retreats cover skills for marriage, a catechesis on the sacrament of marriage and an introduction to the science and morals behind natural family planning. They are offered in English in Indianapolis and New Albany, and in Spanish in Columbus. The upcoming Pre-Cana Retreats are as follows:

Indianapolis—April 20-21 and Sept. 21-22 at Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. each day, \$200 per couple. More information and registration available at cutt.ly/IndyPreCana2024.

New Albany: The next one-day Pre-Cana Retreat in New Albany will take place in the fall; the date is still to be determined. For more information, call 812-923-8355, ext. 201, or go to catalystcatholic.org/precana.

Tobit Weekend retreats take place at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, and are offered in English. The cost is \$298, which includes program materials,

meals, snacks and two rooms for two nights.

The next retreats will take place on April 26-28 and June 28-30.

To register, go to www.archindy.org/fatima/calendar/tobit.html. For registration questions, contact Lisa Coons at lcoons@archindy.org or 317-545-7681. For more information about the program and its contents, contact Jennifer Burger at jburger@archindy.org or 317-545-7681, ext. 106.

One in Christ marriage preparation, which includes a medical panel to address questions on reproduction and fertility, is a three-day program spanning a weekend and the following Saturday. On Saturdays, the program runs from 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and on Sunday it runs from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. The cost is \$399 per couple, which covers meals and materials. Scholarships are available for those with financial difficulty.

There are two upcoming One in Christ opportunities:

—April 6, 7 and 20 and June 1, 2 and 22 at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 10655 Haverstick Road, in Carmel, Ind. (Lafayette Diocese).

To register, go to oicmarriage.org/seminar-info. For more information call 317-600-5629, e-mail info@OICIndy.com or go to oicmarriage.org.

Live retreats offer an invaluable experience for engaged couples and are the expected formation option.

However, for couples who

Archbishop Thompson to celebrate Wedding Anniversary Mass on Aug. 25

The archdiocesan Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass, to be celebrated by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, will take place at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 2 p.m. on Aug. 25. A reception will follow across the street at the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center.

The Mass and reception, sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, are for couples of the archdiocese married

sacramentally in the Catholic Church and celebrating an anniversary ending in 0 or 5.

All couples celebrating an anniversary ending in 0 or 5 who register will receive a certificate.

The event is free, but registration is required and will open in May at tinyurl.com/AnniversaryMass2024 (case sensitive).

For additional questions, contact Claudia Corona at 317-236-7310 or ccorona@archindy.org. †

Couples may announce engagement or marriage in *The Criterion* in August

Engagement announcements will be published in an August issue of *The Criterion* for couples planning to marry between Aug. 9, 2024, and Jan. 31, 2025, in a marriage that is recognized by the Church as a valid sacramental or valid natural marriage.

Submissions may also be sent by couples who wed in a marriage as described above between Feb. 1 and Aug. 8 if they did not publish their engagement in *The Criterion*.

The wedding announcement

form is available online at cutt.ly/CriterionWeddings.

An engagement or wedding photo may be sent to alewis@archindy.org. Digital photos must be clear, high-resolution images with the couple close together. Photos can also be mailed to Ann Lewis, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN, 46202. To receive the photo back, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Due to print quality, Xerox copies of photos will not be accepted. †

experience significant difficulties attending a live retreat, including but not limited to preparing for marriage while out of state or country, being deployed in the armed forces or inflexible shift work at a hospital or factory, the online and self-paced

Joy-Filled Marriage course ensures that no one misses out on valuable and comprehensive marriage formation. It is available in English and Spanish, and the cost is \$105.

For more information or to register, go to cutt.ly/IndyPreCana2024. †