



FOCCUS[™]
Marriage Ministries

**Who is
FOCCUS Inc. USA?**

God, who exists as a communion of persons, created us to live and love in relation to one another. As a ministry of the Catholic Archdiocese of Omaha, FOCCUS Inc. USA seeks to guide the men and women of our world through interpersonal communication to reveal who they are in holy, happy, and healthy relationships. Established in 1985, FOCCUS has assisted millions of couples worldwide.

What is FOCCUS?

The FOCCUS[®] Pre-Marriage Inventory is an instrument which helps to **F**acilitate **O**pen **C**ouple **C**ommunication **U**nderstanding and **S**tudy. The inventory ranges from 151-186 statements to which each member of a couple responds with agree, disagree, or uncertain. The couple's responses are arranged into a personalized report. Encompassing numerous important topics such as communication, spirituality, and finances, FOCCUS is designed to help couples learn more about themselves and their unique relationship, so that they can be prepared for a lifelong marriage that is holy, happy, and healthy. It is not a test nor meant to be a predictor of marital failure or success. FOCCUS is a tool to help couples identify and work through issues before they marry.

**What Makes
FOCCUS Different?**

FOCCUS is a USCCB listed marriage formation inventory which is based on pivotal conversations that lead to happier marriages and holier families. FOCCUS is not simply a screening tool to identify potential problems in an upcoming marriage but is rather an organically structured process to guide men and women into important and formative conversations that are needed before marriage. The facilitation of the FOCCUS inventory by trained, compassionate facilitators is oriented to foster the strengths of each engaged couple while intentionally bringing to light a couple's differences and issues they have not yet thought about or discussed. The end goal of FOCCUS is not simply communication. FOCCUS exists to promote lifelong communion and conversions for engaged and married couples.

**The Power of an
Unaddressed
Question**

In a comprehensive survey of currently divorced Catholics, less than 34% said they spent a substantial amount of time discussing trust and commitment during their marriage preparation.¹ Many of these conversations never happen for one simple reason: engaged couples are not provided with an intentional and targeted context for these conversations to occur. A key benefit of the precise statements and topics within the FOCCUS inventory is to identify (or uncover) critical topics that may have never been previously discussed by the couple, and, if left undiscussed, could lead to significant challenges for a marriage and for a family. FOCCUS statements are research-based and need to be fully explored with the couple allowing appropriate time, care, and guidance by the facilitators.

**FOCCUS:
Communion and
Conversion Through
Conversations**

Pope Francis recently stated that there is a "need for a true catechumenate for the Sacrament of Matrimony, not just two or three meetings and then proceed."² This catechumenate necessitates an intentional process which provides engaged couples with accompaniment and friendship but also the support and formation that the Church mandates and engaged couples deserve. When friendship and formation meet in the FOCCUS process, a real mentorship of marriage can begin. FOCCUS strives to build strong marriages that in turn lead families to heaven.

www.foccusinc.com

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¹ Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate Georgetown University Washington, D.C. Marriage in the Catholic Church: A Survey of U.S. Catholics October 2007, pg. 95).

² Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to Participants in the Course of the Marriage Process, Clementine Hall Saturday, 25 February 2017.