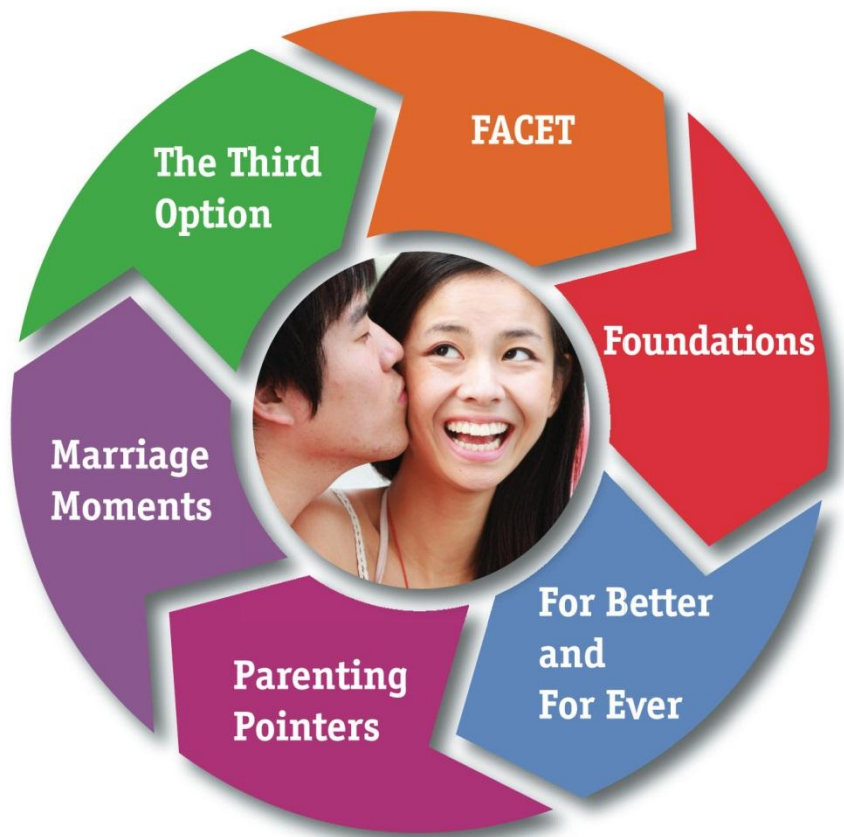


Just right for Parishes...

MARRIAGE MINISTRY MADE EASY



Are you searching for a holistic approach to
your marriage ministry that is:

Expert

Ready-made

Proven

Affordable

True to Catholic teaching

Is your parish looking for a simple yet
comprehensive way to respond to the bishops'
National Pastoral Initiative on Marriage?

Five of the most respected leaders in marriage ministry,
and long-time active members of the National Association
of Catholic Family Life Ministers, have teamed up to
offer you a realistic guide for supporting the marriages in
your parish. We call it Marriage Ministry Made Easy.

MARRIAGE MINISTRY MADE EASY

Marriage Ministry Made Easy is a parish-friendly collection of ministry tools and programs which, taken together, will address the needs of the married couples in your parish over the life-time of their marriages:

- ✓ Marriage preparation
- ✓ Newly married
- ✓ Marriage enrichment
- ✓ Healing troubled marriages

Quality **marriage preparation** which gives the engaged a strong foundation on which to build their future lives together is vital. The preparation needs to be practical, professionally sound, and spiritually rich.

Newly-weds need our special attention because this is the time they are building their habits as a couple. It is also a time of great stress as they work out sharing their lives together, dealing with careers, and opening their circle of love to children. Because of all these transitions, the first ten years of marriage account for the greatest number of divorces.

All couples need support and at times information, education, and skills. **Marriage enrichment** is important not only to help couples over the rough spots but also to inspire and encourage all couples to grow in their love.

When **couples are hurting** or seriously troubled, we need to have a place where they can find hope – and the help they need.

OUR TEAM APPROACH

THE MARRIAGE PREPARATION PIECES

For Better and For Ever: This easy-to-use workbook-based sponsor couple program has been helping couples prepare for sacramental marriage since 1975. Couples learn and practice skills for establishing and *sustaining* life-long marriage with a trained sponsor couple who will keep in touch after they marry.

For Better and Ever covers all the important topics: Family of Origin, Money Matters and Career Planning, Sacramental Marriage, Marital Communication, Mixed Religion Marriages, Parenting, Couples Who Are Living Together, Blended Families, Rituals of Engagement, Prayer, Marital Spirituality, Planning the Wedding and more. Available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. It is the most widely used “sponsor couple” program in the world.

FACET: (Foundations Applied Conversation and Education Tool) is a simple pre-marriage inventory which helps open the communication between the soon-to-be-bride and groom, enabling them to have conversations about important questions, highlighting their strengths and opening up areas of challenge.

THE NEWLY-WED PIECES

For Better and Forever Follow-Up – included in the original program workbook – keeps couples supported and connected to the parish over a two year period.

Foundations – A beautiful, professional, and spiritually uplifting newsletter which can be sent directly to your newly married couples at an extraordinarily affordable price.

THE MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT PIECES

Marriage Moments – weekly marriage tips and encouragement which can be emailed free to your married parishioners.

Parenting Pointers- weekly parenting tips and encouragement which can be emailed free to your parishioners who are parents.

Both Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers are emailed monthly to pastoral ministers to allow time to put them in bulletins, newsletters, or websites.

THE TROUBLED MARRIAGES PIECE

The Third Option – This award winning marriage program has been enriching and saving marriages across the country since 1988. It offers troubled married couples a third choice: not painful endurance, not divorce, but true healing and reconciliation. The group program meets year-round, combining prayer, education, support, and mentor testimonials. It is led by laity and, after the nominal start-up cost, runs virtually free.

ABOUT US

We are a team of ministers with individual programs targeted at marriages in various stages and states.

Fr. Robert A. Ruhnke C.S.S.R., D. Min., began to train married couples to function as “sponsors” for engaged couples in 1975 when he was Family Life Director for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. He continues to update *For Better and For Ever* to address ever changing pastoral needs and travels extensively to assist dioceses and parishes to incorporate the use of “sponsor couples.”

Steve and Kathy Beirne have extensive experience in marriage education and marriage ministry. They are the editors and publishers of Foundations Newsletter for newly married couples, and FACET, a premarital conversation tool. They have presented workshops at Smart Marriages and NACFLM, have written for many publications, including US Catholic, Columbia magazine, Ministry and Liturgy Magazine, and the “For Your Marriage” website. Kathy has an MA in Child and Family Development, Steve has an MA in Catechetical Theology.

Susan Vogt (with her husband, Jim) is an award winning writer and speaker on marriage, parenting, spirituality, and conflict resolution. She is a former Diocesan Family Life Director and lay advisor to the U.S. Bishop’s Committee on Marriage and Family. Susan offers marriage and parenting tips and coaching through her weekly Marriage Moments and Parenting Pointers. She has an M.A. in counseling and is a vowed lay Marianist, representing lay Marianists in N. America, Asia, Australia, and Ireland.

Patricia Crane Ennis, L.M.S.W., has been in ministerial service with Family Life Education, Diocese of Syracuse since 1987. She is founder and director of the Third Option marriage program, where she has integrated her extensive study of marriage/relationship skills, counseling perspective, and faith. She is a nationally recognized speaker, trainer, and author. She has been happily married to her husband, Bryan, since 1968, and together they have three grown children and five grandchildren.

We realized as we were each working in our own part of the vineyard that we offer services that dovetail nicely. We are aiming at the same goal. We would like parishes to know that by using these programs they will be helping their couples along a path to marital health and holiness in an integrated way, a consistency in message from marriage preparation into the parenting years.

How to Contact Us: See web site at > <http://marriageministrymadeeasy.com/>