

TESTIMONIALS

Mary and I have been married over 38 years. While we have certainly had our share of joys and sorrows, the importance of our marriage to us, the strength it has been to us, and the love we share makes me want to share that joy with others. Couples approaching the Church for marriage today in many ways face an uncaring society and world. The very concept of permanence in marriage is thought of by many as a worn out idea. In a time of changing norms, some must remain—and we must provide the tools to support that. Our parish, like all, must be called to partner with other married couples. We must preserve marriage as the model between Christ and His Church. That model, founded on His Sacrificial Love, is the most surefire way to a happy marriage.

- Deacon Kevin and Mary O'Boyle

As a parishioner and a member of the Diocesan Marriage Ministry Team, I am delighted and proud that OLS-SA is ahead of the curve in implementing our Bishop's "Plan for Strengthening Marriage". The Plan calls for "...a marriage ministry in every parish to provide intentional support and enrichment for married couples..." We've been doing that for quite some time, and plan to do more. So come check us out. As we support and enrich couples throughout the parish, we get to see the sacrament lived out in each other.

- Deacon Dennis and Joan Slavin

We were separated from the church for over 30 years thinking that we had been excommunicated due to some inaccurate information that we received regarding divorce and remarriage. Once we took the necessary steps through the Annulment Tribunal, we had our marriage convalidated in church. Our joining Marriage Ministry has enriched our knowledge and experiences in returning to church. The ministry has helped us regain confidence in our faith by providing us with wonderful role models and people who have helped us regain our perspective toward a Holy life.

- Dominic and Sharon Conte

Having been married for 35 years, Michael and I know the ups and downs, joys and sorrows, of marriage and we know that we can't do it alone. Our parish, our faith family, has brought strength and comfort to us! Sharing our joy when we convalidated our marriage and adopted our daughter, and when we looked around after the funerals of our parents, our faith family was there to support us. A parish marriage ministry is part of that support and a solid resource for marriages in all phases and experiences of marriage. After all, who would know better?

- Michael and Susan Commi

The sacrament of marriage is the union of two unique individuals with Christ at the center. How were we, Kevin and Barbara, going to be "united" in our differences? Joys and sorrows, surprises and disappointments, are the "calling" of matrimony that provide opportunities for experiencing the grace and depth of our vocation. Soon, we will be married 50 years and we continue to be in awe of just what the differences and union really mean. As our marriage(s) have their own "DNA", our church recognizes and blesses this uniqueness and blesses our team efforts to support the sacrament of marriage.

- Kevin and Barbara Dohrenwend

Being on the Marriage Ministry team has helped our marriage become stronger. Spending time together as a couple has helped our communication skills and brought us closer together. Marriage is a partnership. For better or worse, for richer or poorer, and in sickness and in health.

- Lucy and Michael Stewart

MARRIAGE RESOURCE SITES

PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE

- *For Your Marriage*: www.foryourmarriage.org

ENRICHING MARRIAGE

- *Beloved*: www.augustineinstitute.org/formed/beloved
- *"Choice Wine"*: <http://paradisusdei/the-choice-wine.org>
- *For Your Marriage*: www.foryourmarriage.org

IMPROVING MARRIAGE

- *Retrouvaille Program*: www.helpourmarriage.org

CONVALIDATION:

BLESSING A CIVIL MARRIAGE

<https://dioceseoftrenton.org/convalidation>

ANNULMENTS

<https://dioceseoftrenton.org/annulments>

MARRIAGE MINISTRY OF OLS—SA

3816 EAST STATE STREET EXT.

HAMILTON, NJ 08619

609 - 587 - 4372

MARRIAGEMINISTRY@OLS-SA.ORG

MARRIAGE MINISTRY AT OUR LADY OF SORROWS - ST. ANTHONY



Symbol of the Sacrament of Marriage

"To love another person is to see the face of God"

- Victor Hugo
Les Miserables



FOCUS

To help couples strengthen their marriage with Christ at the center.

MISSION

To serve our parish community and celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage, supporting each other through worship, liturgy, and marriage enrichment; to promote a Christ-centric marriage; and, above all, to strengthen marriage for the couple, family, and community.

A HOLY RELATIONSHIP

“Every marriage is a holy relationship, and no two relationships are alike – God has established in each marriage a unique gift and reflection of inexhaustible love. All the events in your marriage relationship offer lessons for life and for loving. The vocation of marriage is a lifelong course for learning how to love well. We can incorporate these lessons of loving into our own search for authenticity and salvation.”

- Richard Johnson, Ph.D.

THE ART OF MARRIAGE

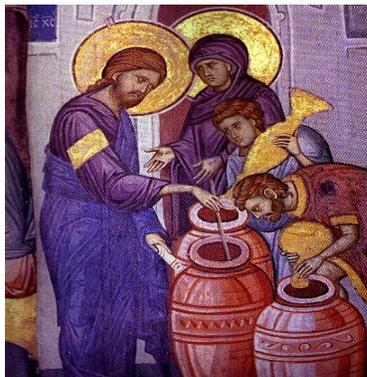
“A good marriage must be created. In the marriage, the little things are the big things. It is never being too old to hold hands. It is remembering to say, “I love you” at least once each day. It is never going to sleep angry. It is a mutual sense of values and common objectives. It is standing together and facing the world. It is forming a circle of love that gathers in the whole family. It is speaking words of appreciation and demonstrating gratitude in thoughtful ways. It is having the capacity to forgive. It is giving each other an atmosphere in which each can grow. It is a common search for the good and the beautiful. It is not only marrying the right person, it is being the right partner.”

- Anonymous

WHY A MARRIAGE MINISTRY TEAM?

“Why a Marriage Ministry Team? The answer is simple—marriage matters. A parish should not be content with providing only a good preparation for marriage. It should also be eager to accompany a couple on the road of married life. In a culture that believes that it is impossible to love another person ‘forever,’ we should look to provide tools to sustain and enrich the journey. As Pope Francis has said, ‘Forever’ is not simply a question of duration! A marriage does not succeed just because it lasts; its quality is also important.”

- Msgr. Thomas Gervasio, Pastor



CELEBRATIONS OF MARRIAGE AT OLS-SA

- **ENGAGED AND NEWLY MARRIED COUPLES MASS**
A celebration to honor those preparing for marriage and those in the early years of marriage. A dinner follows to share the excitement of the “newness” of their couple relationship. Ceremony of Lighting the Unity Candle will take place.
- **ANNIVERSARY MASS**
An annual celebration of milestone anniversaries for parish couples. During the Liturgy, the couples reaffirm their wedding vows. Wine & Cheese Reception follows.

CURRENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- **“MARRIAGE MOMENTS “- ON WEB SITE**
These quotes are thought-provoking moments by Susan Vogt to enhance a couples’ relationship.
- **MEET & GREET**
An Open House to meet the current Marriage Ministry Team and explore the focus and mission of the ministry.
- **EVENINGS OF RECOLLECTION FOR COUPLES**
Time set aside for couples to refresh their relationship, both spiritually and personally.
- **PRAYER TEAM FOR ENGAGED COUPLES**
A parish team dedicated to praying for engaged couples throughout their preparation for the sacrament of marriage.
- **MARRIAGE MINISTRY TEAM BARBECUE**
A time of relaxation and friendship celebrated by team members.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES - PLANNING STAGE

- **MARRIED COUPLES RETREAT**
- **MENTORING PROGRAM**
- **DAY OF REFLECTION FOR THE WIDOWED**
- **SEMINARS FOR NEW PARENTS**
- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR COUPLES**
- **FAMILY ROSARY**
- **SEMINARS BASED ON THE “BELOVED” SERIES**