

Coming Up

Celebrate Love

A two day seminar for married couples exploring spirituality and sexuality in the Catholic context.

2009

Sydney, NSW	Mar 7/8
Brisbane, QLD	Mar 14/15
West Wagga, NSW	Mar 21/22
Casino, NSW	Apr 25/26
Perth, WA	May 2/3
Newcastle, NSW	May 23/24
Albury, NSW	May 30/31
Central Coast, NSW	Jun 20/21
Perth, WA	Aug 15/16
Mount Isa, QLD	Aug 29/30
Sydney, NSW	Sep 12/13
Newcastle, NSW	Oct 24/25
Wellington, NZ	TBA
London, UK	TBA

www.CelebrateLove.com.au

Embrace

Preparing to Live in Love

A six session programme for dating or engaged couples preparing to marry in the Catholic Church.

Available Now!

Sydney, Newcastle, Brisbane, Perth, London

Three formats:

- individual couple-to-couple mentoring
- small home based groups
- large parish based groups

www.Embrace.org.au

Smart Loving

Public Talks 2009

TBA

www.CelebrateLove.com.au

Living Well Media

Resources for Catholic Families, Schools & Parishes

Multimedia and print materials featuring Christopher West, Fr Tony Percy, Teresa Pirola, Karen & Jonathan Doyle and Byron & Francine Pirola

www.LivingWellMedia.com.au

Smart Loving

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Smart Dating #4: You are what you do

Almost everyone aspires to a happy, life-long marriage. Surveys across different cultures and various age groups all point to the predominant desire for a loving and stable family life shared with a partner with whom one can work as a team for the good of the family.

And why wouldn't we? We all know that even the most high powered career or glamorous social life is no substitute for the rewards of a life-long, passionate love affair.

An interesting part of this universal aspiration is how we see ourselves. Intuitively, we know that a good wife or husband is one who is dedicated to their spouse, romantic and tender, patient and caring with the children, hardworking and energetic, faithful and fun loving. In our mental pictures, we envision ourselves at our very best, thriving in the atmosphere of love.

Yet few of us translate that glorious vision into the 'here and now' and let it influence the way we conduct our lives in the present. For example, emotional maturity and self-mastery are seen as desirable qualities in a future spouse, yet many singles do not practice these virtues in their personal life but rather live indulgently and selfishly. And again, while almost everyone values sexual exclusivity in marriage, many freely engage in sex with several partners before marriage, expecting that fidelity will be spontaneous after the wedding day.

We understand that our health, fitness and career success are outcomes resulting from a lifetime of thoughtful actions, but somehow we seem to forget that this principle equally applies to our relationships. A successful marriage is not something that is created on the wedding day which unfolds spontaneously before the couple. Successful marriages are consciously created by two dedicated people of character who each work to make themselves better lovers. And most of them started the process well before their wedding day. In their teenage years and single life, they were already developing the personal qualities needed to form lasting love-bonds.

So give some thought to the kind of person you are becoming and take action **now** to develop the qualities that will help you create the marriage for which you long.

