

Coming Up

Celebrate Love

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

2009

Sydney, NSW Nov 7/8
Perth, WA Nov 7/8

2010 Dates Coming soon

Sth Highalnds, NSW Feb/Mar
Surry, GB Feb
Sydney Nth, NSW May/Jun

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,
Wagga, London

Four formats:

- individual couple-to-couple mentoring
- small home based groups
- large parish based groups
- correspondence (remote areas only)

www.Embrace.org.au

Living Well Media

Resources for Catholic Families, Schools & Parishes

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

www.LivingWellMedia.com.au

Renaissance

of Marriage Mini-Conference 2010

Declaring a new spring-time in marriage formation. Check website for details.

Oct 1-3, Sydney

www.thepmrc.org/renaissance

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Knot Yet! #7: The Continuity Factor

Many people assume that what they do as singles will not affect their future marriage relationship. They see single life as the opportunity to 'have some fun' and 'live it up' before they 'settle down' to marriage.

Interestingly, recent research has given substance to what many commentators have been saying for decades: how one lives before marriage impacts the stability of the relationship after marriage. Premarital sex and cohabitation for example are two significant factors cited as contributing negatively to marital satisfaction and longevity*. It seems that 'living it up' before marriage has long lasting consequences well beyond the obvious risks of sexually transmitted infections or pregnancy.

Unhelpful habits formed during our single years can not always be so easily discarded once married. These habits can include anything from personal hygiene to sexual standards and relationship patterns. For example, those who make a habit of ending a relationship rather than dealing with a conflict will soon discover that 'happily ever after' doesn't come to those who don't invest in the relationship. Similarly, expectations of independent lifestyles established during singledom are not generally compatible with the exclusivity of marriage.

Marriage doesn't happen in a vacuum. Marriage is the blend of the two individuals and all the life experience they bring to their relationship. Every significant past relationship influences the formation of each person's character. We carry the wounds and riches of every relationship into our marriage where they either help or play havoc with our ability to freely give ourselves totally to our spouse. Those singles who protect their heart from unnecessary wounding and develop habits and attitudes that are compatible with marriage will be the ultimate winners.



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* Ref: Heaton, Timothy. Factors Contributing to Increasing Marital Stability in the United States. Journal of Family Issues, Vol. 23 No. 3, April 2002 392, 409.