### **PA822DE – Marriage Practicum**

# **Course Description**

This course focuses on developing skills that are essential to deacons in the pastoral setting of premarriage counseling and preparation: the ability to assess and summarize various information to the sacramental nature of marriage, and the capacity to develop a pastoral care approach to the couple's vision of the wedding. Both challenges require deacons to think purposefully and integrate various communication skills. Deacons apply these skills in several contexts: couple premarital meetings, marriage team meetings, and marriage presentations. Being able to understand and communicate fundamental marriage issues, identify the sacramental challenges, and delineate essential elements of alternatives or recommendations require a comprehensive understanding of marriage in the United States multicultural and interfaith society. Being able to develop and refine a pastoral care approach is essential in evangelizing the Church's position on marriage and influencing newly married couples to live out a sacramental marriage. In this course, students learn how to analyze pre-marriage situations, purposefully develop approaches for structure and style for each couple, and construct methods to handle conflicts among couples.

## **Learning Objectives**

- To have a working knowledge of how the communication process (active listener, sender, message, channel, receiver, interpretation) are directly related to successful pre-marriage pastoral care.
- To help deacons understand the importance of pastoral care needs of pre-married couples.
- To that end, deacons will advance their integral relationship between personal marriage experience and the sacraments of Holy Orders and Marriage.
- To improve deacons' skill levels in interpersonal, small group, public communication.
- To assist deacons to distinguish between spiritual direction, pastoral counseling, and psychological therapy.
- To provide the Catholic Church's teaching on marriage and family.
- To present existing resources from the U.S. Bishops as well as other Catholic websites on marriage.
- To offer a pastoral care approach to pre-married couples that focus on:
  - Understanding of a Secular View of Marriage.
  - ◆ Catholic Church Teachings.
  - The Dignity of Marriage.
  - Mixed Marriages (interfaith and multicultural).
  - ♦ Domestic Violence.
  - Family Planning Issues.
  - ♦ Pornography
  - ◆ The Spirituality of Marriage.

- History of Marriage.
- Canon Law on Marriage.
- ♦ Theology of the Body.
- Cohabitation.
- Perseverance and Reconciliation in Marriage.
- Domestic Church.

# **Course Schedule**

LEC#	TOPICS
Modular 1	Introduction to the course and syllabus review. Understanding religion today.  Is the couple spiritual or religious? Does the couple seek to be spiritual or religious? Naming spirituality and religiosity in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century?  Power Point Readings Assignment  Teleconference calls.
Modular 2	How does 21 <sup>st</sup> Century society define marriage? Case study on young adults' definition of marriage. Review of interfaith and intercultural marriages.  Power Point Readings Assignment  Forum assignment
Modular 3	Challenges to Traditional Marriage. Part I  Power Point Readings Assignment
Modular 4	Challenges to Traditional Marriage Part II  Power Point Readings Assignment

LEC#	TOPICS
	Forum Assignment
Modular 5	Church's Teaching on Marriage
	Power Point Readings Assignment
	Teleconference
	Pastoral Care to Marriage
Modular 6	Power Point Readings Assignment Forum Assignment
Modular 7	Theology of the Sacrament of Marriage
	History of Marriage
	Power Point Readings Assignment
Modular 8	Cannon Law and Marriage
	Power Point Readings Assignment
	Forum Assignment
Modular 9	The Meeting with the Couple.
	Power Point Readings Assignment
Modular 10	The Paperwork
	Power Point Readings Assignment
	Forum Assignment
Modular	The Rite of Marriage

LEC#	TOPICS
11	Power Point Readings Assignment Teleconference
Modular 12	The Wedding Celebration  Power Point Readings Assignment

### **Course Materials**

#### Required Texts:

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony: Complete Set (Hardcover) (Lslf Ind Edition)

Ave Maria Press (Autor corporativo) Anillos, 140 Pages, Published 2016 ISBN-13 978-1 59471-723-9

#### Together for Life: Revised with the Order of Celebrating Matrimony

Author: Joseph M. Champlin; Peter A. Jarret C.S.C.

Year: 2016 Format: Paperback 134 pages

ISBN 13: 9781594717222 (978-1-59471-722-2)

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#### Suggested Text:

A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations by Kate L. Turabian

ISBN-13: 978-0226816388 ISBN-10: 0226816389

This guide is available in paperback and eBook.

Hamilton, L. & Munter, M. (2014). *Guide to managerial communication: Effective Business writing and speaking* (10<sup>th</sup>ed.). Boston, MA: Pearson.

ISBN-13: 978-0132971331 ISBN-10: 013297133X