



A Wedding is a Day, A Marriage is a Lifetime

Thank you for selecting Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE) for your marriage preparation. CEE weekends are specifically designed for private communication between you and your fiancé. The weekend is a very intense weekend in that the presentations and questions sometimes require a risk in sharing with each other to deepen your knowledge of each other.

The format of the weekend consists of a series of personal presentations by two married couples and a priest. After each presentation, the two of you will be asked to separate and write detailed responses to a series of statements and questions. Then you will exchange your responses with each other and spend some time discussing your answers to the questions. Except for sleeping arrangements, you spend nearly every minute together listening, writing and talking about yourselves as an engaged and soon-to-be-married couple.

We try to maintain a quiet, peaceful retreat atmosphere in which each couple can concentrate exclusively on one another free from the tensions, pressures and interruptions of the world. This will give you an opportunity to reflect deeply on your goals and attitudes about money, sex, children, family, and your role in the church and society; and to discuss them in a face-to-face manner.

Your weekend will begin on Friday night, at 7:00pm, so please arrive at the Carmelite Spirituality Center no later than 6:30pm. This will allow you time to register and unpack. It is very important that you be on time.

Meals will be provided beginning with Saturday breakfast and ending with Sunday breakfast. There is no meal served Friday night, so plan to eat before arriving at the facility. We suggest that you plan to dress comfortably – jeans and shorts are Okay. Sometimes the conference room is cool, so some might need a light jacket. The closing Mass on Sunday is held in the main chapel, and some couples bring dress slacks/skirts for Mass. The sleeping arrangements are dormitory style – 2 to a room. Sheets and towels are provided. The Mass and weekend will end before 3:00pm on Sunday at which time you will receive your certificate and depart.

The program consists of you remaining at the Carmelite Spirituality Center in Lacombe for the **ENTIRE WEEKEND**. So, each of you please bring the following items:

- Shampoo and other toiletries
- Medications you normally take
- Cigarettes, if you smoke (only allowed outside buildings. Please place butts in the receptacles provided)
- Non-perishable snacks for the communal snack table at breaks (examples: fruit, cookies, brownies, chips, candy, popcorn, crackers, pretzels, etc.)
- Bring one or two 2-liter bottles of your favorite soft drinks, tea or bottled water to share on the communal snack table (cups & ice provided.)
- OPTIONAL: Pillow – if you prefer your own; old blanket for sitting on the ground outside.

We have a waiting list of couples who would like to attend this weekend, so please let us know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if you are unable to attend and wish to reschedule to another weekend. If you need further information before the weekend, **please** call Family Life (540) 861-6243.

DIRECTIONS to Carmelite Spirituality Center 62292 Fish Hatchery Road, Lacombe, Louisiana.

If you should need any help finding our center please contact us at (985) 882-7579.

From New Orleans

Take the Causeway Bridge to the Northshore. Once on the Northshore, remain in the right lane and take US 190 East exit (about one-quarter mile). Stay on US 190 through Mandeville and into Lacombe. At Capitol One, turn LEFT onto Fish Hatchery Road. The center is 1.9 miles further on the right.

From Baton Rouge

Take I-12 East toward Mandeville/Covington. Take EXIT 74 (Lacombe/St. Tammany exit). Turn RIGHT to Lacombe. At US 190, turn RIGHT. Almost immediately you will cross a bridge over Bayou Lacombe. Just after the bridge, turn RIGHT at the Capitol One Bank onto Fish Hatchery Road. The center is 1.9 miles further on the right.