

*Together in Holiness* – Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston  
Saturday, February 10, 2024 | St. James the Greater Catholic Church, Charles Town, WV

## FAMILY, A SCHOOL OF LOVE

10:00 AM	<b>CONFERENCE CHECK-IN</b> Childcare Check-In Exhibitor Booths – available throughout conference
10:45 – 11:00 AM	<b>WORDS OF WELCOME</b> Joshua Bitting, PhD, Program Director, St. John Paul II Foundation
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>THE FAMILY: THE FIRST SCHOOL OF LOVE</b> Joshua Bitting, PhD, Program Director, St. John Paul II Foundation
12:00 – 1:45 PM	<b>BREAK FOR LUNCH AND PRAYER</b> Sacrament of Reconciliation – 12:45 - 1:45 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – 12:45 - 1:45 pm Benediction – 1:30 pm Exhibitor Booths – available throughout conference
2:00 – 3:00 PM	<b>GROWING IN LOVE AS SPOUSES</b> Speaker TBA
3:15 – 4:15 PM	<b>BECOMING WITNESSES TO THE JOY OF EUCHARISTIC LOVE</b> Renzo and Monica Ortega, Co-founders of <i>Two Become Family</i>
4:15 – 4:30 PM	<b>CLOSING COMMENTS AND SENDING FORTH</b>
4:30 PM	<b>TRANSITION TO MASS</b> Childcare Check-out Last Chance for Exhibitor Booths
5:00 PM	<b>VIGIL MASS AND MARRIAGE BLESSING</b> Celebrant: Rev. Timothy Grassi

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## PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

### THE FAMILY: THE FIRST SCHOOL OF LOVE

**Joshua Bitting, PhD**, Program Director, St. John Paul II Foundation

Love is the foundation that unites a husband and wife in marriage, the sacrament of charity. The self-giving love of spouses forms the basis for love within the family. The family, as the first society, can then grow in deeper love through witnessing the faithful conjugal love of spouses. This talk will offer insight into how marriage and the family is called to become the first school of love through which spouses and children learn how to live out the new commandment to “love one another. Just as I have loved you” (Jn 13:34-35).

### GROWING IN LOVE AS SPOUSES

**Speaker TBA**

The mission of marriage and family life is to become a sacrament at the service of communion and love – both of the Lord and other people. Marriage is a beautiful vocation that allows couples unlimited opportunities to grow in strength, humility, forgiveness, reconciliation, and charity. In this talk, a couple will offer wisdom based upon their own journey with the Lord that will aim to assist other married couples to grow in love with one another.

### BECOMING WITNESSES TO THE JOY OF EUCHARISTIC LOVE

**Renzo and Monica Ortega**, Co-founders of *Two Become Family*

Family life and evangelization? In a world that often rejects traditional marriage and family life, our families’ witness to joy and self-giving love is more important than ever. Despite the busyness and challenges of family life, it remains part of God’s plan to share His love with the world. As St. John Paul II explained: “The Christian family’s faith and evangelizing mission also possesses this Catholic missionary inspiration. The sacrament of marriage takes up and reposes the task of defending and spreading the faith, a task that has its roots in Baptism and Confirmation, and makes Christian married couples and parents witnesses of Christ ‘to the end of the earth’, missionaries, in the true and proper sense, of love and life” (*Familiaris consortio*, no. 54). This talk will give a foundational vision for the mission of the family and practical tips for joyfully sharing the faith within the context of family life.