

*Together in Holiness* – Diocese of Charlotte  
Saturday, November 22, 2025 | St. Barnabas Catholic Church, Arden, NC

## COURAGEOUS HOPE IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

<b>7:30 AM</b>	<b>CONFERENCE CHECK-IN</b> Childcare Check-In Sacrament of Reconciliation - 7:30 - 8:00 am Exhibitor Booths – available throughout conference
<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>MASS AND MARRIAGE BLESSING</b> Very Rev. Adrian Porras, Pastor, St. Barnabas Catholic Church
<b>9:30 – 9:45 AM</b>	<b>WORDS OF WELCOME</b> Deacon Michael Deem, Fellow, St. John Paul II Foundation
<b>9:45 – 10:45 AM</b>	<b>THE FAMILY AS A BEACON OF HOPE FOR OTHERS</b> Greg Schutte, MSW, LISW-S, Senior Director of Marriage Works! Ohio, Marriage Therapist, Author
<b>11:00 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	<b>IN GOOD TIMES AND IN BAD</b> Deacon Michael and Katerina Deem
<b>12:00 – 1:45 PM</b>	<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
<b>2:00 – 3:00 PM</b>	<b>HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT: A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY</b> Mallory Smyth, National Speaker, Author, and Podcaster
<b>3:00 – 3:15 PM</b>	<b>CLOSING COMMENTS AND SENDING FORTH</b> Childcare Check-out Last Chance for Exhibitor Booths

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## PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

### THE FAMILY AS A BEACON OF HOPE FOR OTHERS

**Greg Schutte, MSW, LISW-S**, Senior Director of Marriage Works! Ohio, Marriage Therapist, Author

According to St. Peter, we must “always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15). This talk will offer insights into how our witness to marriage and family life can become an authentic witness of hope for others.

### IN GOOD TIMES AND IN BAD

**Deacon Michael and Katerina Deem**

Spouses have committed to love one another faithfully in both “good times and in bad.” This presentation will offer some practical advice in how couples can navigate the challenging storms of marriage and family life. This presentation will highlight ways in which a married couple is called upon to focus on Jesus Christ as the ultimate source of hope for marriage.

### HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT: A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

**Mallory Smyth**, National Speaker, Author, and Podcaster

St. Paul exhorts us to “rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us” (Romans 5:3-5). Hope is a challenging virtue when we are faced with the cross in different ways in life. This talk will focus on how the virtue of hope can strengthen a married couple and their family during difficult moments in their vocation as domestic church.