

*Together in Holiness* – Diocese of Columbus  
Saturday, September 19, 2026 | St. Catharine Catholic Church, Columbus, OH

## FAMILY, A SCHOOL OF VIRTUE

<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>CONFERENCE CHECK-IN</b> Childcare Check-In Sacrament of Reconciliation - 8:00 - 8:30 am Exhibitor Booths – available throughout conference
<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>MASS AND MARRIAGE BLESSING</b> Celebrant: Most Rev. Earl K. Fernandes
<b>10:00 – 10:15 AM</b>	<b>WORDS OF WELCOME</b> Emcee TBA
<b>10:15 – 11:15 AM</b>	<b>THE FAMILY: A SCHOOL OF VIRTUE</b> Presenter TBA
<b>11:30 AM – 12:30 PM</b>	<b>THRIVING, NOT JUST SURVIVING: VIRTUES OF A JOYFUL MARRIAGE</b> Alan and Julie Ratliff
<b>12:30 – 2:30 PM</b>	<b>BREAK FOR LUNCH AND PRAYER</b> Sacrament of Reconciliation – 1:30 - 2:30 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – 1:30 - 2:30 pm Benediction – 2:15 pm Exhibitor Booths – available throughout conference
<b>2:45 – 3:45 PM</b>	<b>HOLINESS AND THE RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH</b> Sister John Mary Sullivan, FSE, Director, Franciscan Life Center
<b>3:45 – 4:00 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: A SCHOOL OF VIRTUE**

**Presenter TBA**

What did St. Paul VI mean when he wrote the family is the “first school of the social virtues”? How can spouses foster virtue in their marriage? How can parents encourage their children’s growth in virtue, despite the culture’s contrary messages of selfishness, individualism, and immorality? Drawing upon wisdom from the Church, this talk will offer guidance for married couples and parents at various stages of parenting to overcome common obstacles to peace, balance, and joy in daily family life. The talk will remind married couples to focus on the beauty, joy, and privilege of the family’s unique call to be a school of virtue for the entire family.

### **THRIVING, NOT JUST SURVIVING: VIRTUES OF A JOYFUL MARRIAGE**

**Alan and Julie Ratliff**

Married couples are called to thrive and not simply survive in the vocation of marriage. This presentation will examine how a couple can develop virtues to transform their marriage into a joyful vocation. This presentation will identify the causes of complacency in marriage that undermine its growth in virtue. There will be an emphasis on how married couples can become joyful through the ordinary ebbs and flows of married life.

### **HOLINESS AND THE RENEWAL OF THE CHURCH**

**Sister John Mary Sullivan, FSE, Director, Franciscan Life Center**

All people are called to become saints. St. Paul reminds the Church that God’s will is our sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3). This presentation will explore the importance of the universal call to holiness within the Church and how married couples, in accordance with their state of life, can answer this call. There will be a particular focus on how the sacrament of marriage offers spouses the grace to answer the call to holiness and what steps couples can take to respond generously to the call to holiness.