

Together in Holiness – Greater Houston
Saturday, September 26, 2026 | St. Theresa Catholic Church, Sugar Land, TX

THE JOYFUL VOCATION OF MARRIAGE

9:45 AM	CONFERENCE CHECK-IN Childcare Check-In Sacrament of Reconciliation - 9:45 - 10:30 am Exhibitor Booths – available throughout conference
10:30 – 10:45 AM	WORDS OF WELCOME Michelle Salas, Program Coordinator, St. John Paul II Foundation
10:45 – 11:45 AM	THE JOY OF MARRIED LOVE Troy and Kathleen Billings, Co-authors of <i>Simply Love: Catholic Marriage Day by Day</i>
11:45 AM – 1:45 PM	BREAK FOR LUNCH AND PRAYER Sacrament of Reconciliation – 12:15 - 1:15 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – 12:15 - 1:15 pm Benediction – 1:00 pm Exhibitor Booths – available throughout conference
2:00 – 3:00 PM	<i>GAUDIUM FIDEI</i>: DOMESTIC PRINCIPLES FOR CULTIVATING THE LOVE OF WISDOM AND THE DESIRE FOR LEISURE Hannah and Eric Mabry
3:15 – 4:15 PM	JOYFUL WITNESS: THE FAMILY GOES FORTH Deacon Jason and Rachel Bulman, Catholic Authors and Speaker, Co-hosts of <i>Meet the Bulmans</i>
4:15 – 4:30 PM	CLOSING COMMENTS AND SENDING FORTH
4:30 PM	TRANSITION TO MASS Childcare Check-out Last Chance for Exhibitor Booths
5:00 PM	VIGIL MASS AND MARRIAGE BLESSING Celebrant: Rev. David Angelino

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PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

THE JOY OF MARRIED LOVE

Troy and Kathleen Billings, Co-authors of *Simply Love: Catholic Marriage Day by Day*

True joy flows from the mutual self-gift that defines sacramental marriage. The connection between the joy of the Gospel and the daily reality of married life establishes the theological foundation for authentic joy in marriage. Marriage is not merely a path to personal fulfillment but a participation in God's own joyful love, meant to be shared with the world. This talk will address common obstacles to joy while offering practical wisdom on cultivating the small daily gestures that build lasting happiness, inviting couples to rediscover their marriage as an ongoing encounter with Christ, where love "constantly renews and transforms."

***GAUDIUM FIDEI*: DOMESTIC PRINCIPLES FOR CULTIVATING THE LOVE OF WISDOM AND THE DESIRE FOR LEISURE**

Hannah and Eric Mabry

In his *Familiaris Consortio*, Pope St. John Paul II spoke not only of "the natural and human communion" of the family "founded and given life by love" (§18) but also of the "fundamental opportunity" afforded by the "the educational exchange between parents and children" which enabled the Christian family to be collaborators in the expansion of the "new and original communion" (§21) poured out through the grace of Jesus Christ. As grace perfects nature, so faith perfects wonder. This presentation explores how the educational mission of the family can be shaped by faith and directed by wonder, so that the family can rest and delight in sapiential conversation (cf. Phil 3:20), tasting what is above (cf. Col 3:2). If it was the sharing of God's own Wisdom which made us sons and daughters, then the ongoing sharing of wisdom ought to constitute a significant dimension of our own family life in the Faith, as we wait in the hope of glory (cf. Col 1:27) and anticipate the joy of beatific life.

JOYFUL WITNESS: THE FAMILY GOES FORTH

Deacon Jason and Rachel Bulman, Catholic Authors and Speakers, Co-Hosts of *Meet the Bulmans*

The witness of the family comes not from perfection but from authentic love, forgiveness, and hope lived in every day. The Church issues a bold missionary call, challenging families to become centers of contagious joy that attract others to Christ. This talk will equip families to "go forth" boldly, inspired to see themselves as missionary disciples, recognizing that their stable, joyful, self-giving love is precisely the witness our world needs.