

Together in Holiness – Greater Houston
Saturday, September 26, 2026 | St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, The Woodlands, TX

THE JOYFUL VOCATION OF MARRIAGE

9:45 AM	CONFERENCE CHECK-IN Childcare Check-In Exhibitor Booths – available throughout conference
10:30 – 10:45 AM	WORDS OF WELCOME Paul Rouleau, Director of Philanthropy, St. John Paul II Foundation
10:45 – 11:45 AM	JOYFUL WITNESS: THE FAMILY GOES FORTH Damon Owens, Founder of <i>Joyful Ever After</i>
11:45 AM – 1:45 PM	BREAK FOR LUNCH AND PRAYER 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	THE FAMILY AS THE SCHOOL OF JOY AND FAITH Jeremy and Courtney Barta, Parishioners, Presentation of the Lord Catholic Church
3:15 – 4:15 PM	THE JOY OF MARRIED LOVE Troy and Kathleen Billings, Co-authors of <i>Simply Love: Catholic Marriage Day by Day</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

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PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

JOYFUL WITNESS: THE FAMILY GOES FORTH

Damon Owens, Founder of *Joyful Ever After*

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.

THE FAMILY AS THE SCHOOL OF JOY AND FAITH

Jeremy and Courtney Barta, Parishioners, Presentation of the Lord Catholic Church

The family is the primary place where both joy and faith are passed on from one generation to the next. How can families maintain joy in the midst of challenges, daily crosses of life, and major seasons of suffering? This talk will provide practical guidance on cultivating gratitude, celebration, and wonder within the rhythms of ordinary family life, recognizing that “the family is the first school, where we are trained in the art of turning difficulties into opportunities for growth in goodness.”

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.”