

## What is a Great Marriage?

We all long for a great marriage with a dynamic loving relationship. Before we married, we dreamed of sharing the memorable moments of life with our best friend and having a partner to journey through the difficult times with side by side.

Wives long for deep loving intimacy as they share their personal interests and build strong relationships connecting them with their husbands. In a great marriage a wife knows her husband is constantly trying to show his love for his wife with romantic gestures and words throughout the day

Husbands long to know that their efforts are valued and appreciated. Men have a God given need to go out from themselves and make a mark on the world and at the end of the day know that their wives honor and respect them.

A great marriage creates a lifetime of love, a love that is deeper and stronger every year of our life. These are the desires of our heart.



## How Do You Create a Great Marriage?

The bad news is that great marriages don't just happen. Great marriages are created by husbands and wives that value an exceptional relationship and are willing to put in the effort and energy to make them happen.

If there is a formula for a great marriage, it would look something like this:

- Learn from others that have great marriages what they do
- Learn God's plan for marriage and love
- Develop practical relationship skills like communication, conflict resolution and meeting each other's needs
- Associate with other couples who are working to build a great marriage
- Put it all into practice on a daily basis

The Covenant of Love marriage group helps couples do all of this. **Couples of Faith** meets on a monthly basis for enrichment, fellowship and prayer.

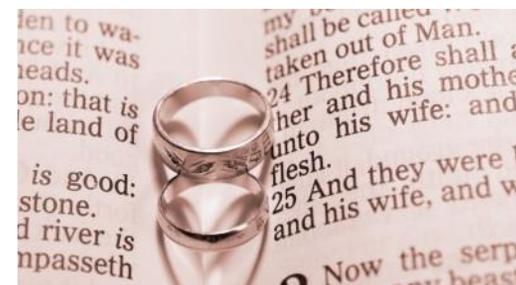
## The Beauty of a Great Marriage

Great marriages are like strong trees that withstand the storms of nature and flourish to become great symbols of God's loving plan for us.

A strong foundation based on God's plan for marriage and practical relationship skills are like a strong root system that nourishes and supports the tree. The marriage group provides opportunities to both learn God's plan and discuss with other couples how to implement that plan on a day to day basis.

Trees become stronger and withstand harsher conditions when they are near other trees that can buffer them and support them. The same is true for us. Alone, we can become vulnerable, but a strong support system not only protects us but also helps us flourish.

Mature trees bear beautiful fruit giving witness to the dignity of the tree. Mature and healthy marriages bear witness to the beauty of the Sacrament of Marriage and become a true sign to everyone of God's love.



## A Message from Our Priests

"In my work throughout the years with married couples and families, I have become aware of the joys and crisis in marriages today. Joy comes when you give your marriage an opportunity to have an encounter with Christ. In the midst of our crisis and struggles we carry on knowing that we are not walking alone. The Lord himself walks with us and gives us the strength to keep going. The Covenant of Love ministry is an opportunity to have this encounter with him as a couple and family and to experience his healing and share in his joy."

Fr. Juan Carlos Lopez  
Pastor - SAMC

"The institution of marriage remains a vital part of the Church and society. So very often couples will come across challenging times in their relationship or simply need renewal. Thankfully Covenant of Love is here at our parish and continues doing a wonderful job in bringing healing and love for these couples.

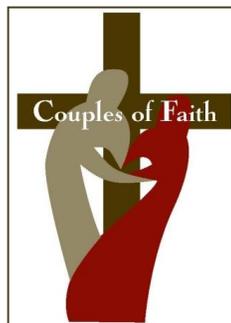
-Fr. Jason  
Associate Pastor - SAMC

## What Participants Are Saying

*"This past month has been the best time that we've had in our marriage since our wedding because we have been applying what we have been learning at the Covenant of Love session in our marriage."*

-Barry & Gina

## Upcoming Couples of Faith Marriage Group Evenings (second Friday of the Month)



September 12, 2014  
October 10, 2014  
November 14, 2014  
December 12, 2014  
January 9, 2015  
February 13, 2015  
March 13, 2015  
April 10, 2015  
May 8, 2015  
June 12, 2015

"Date nights" are free and take place in the Holy Family House from 7-9 pm. Childcare is offered for a small donation. Contact Marcia Holsonbake for more information about childcare at 512-563-9586.

For more information about the Covenant of Love Marriage Ministry, check out our link on the St. Anthony's website or email us at [CovenantofLove@samc.org](mailto:CovenantofLove@samc.org).

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The Covenant of Love Marriage Ministry is a creation of The Alexander House Apostolate. The Alexander House - seeks to build Christ-centered marriages through the teachings of John Paul II and the Catholic Church. The Alexander House has successfully coached over one thousand couples in their marriages.

You can learn more about The Alexander House Apostolate at [www.thealexanderhouse.org](http://www.thealexanderhouse.org)



*Building  
Great Marriages  
at  
Saint Anthony Marie  
de Claret  
Catholic Church*

