

Inventories:

Marriage Preparation

- FOCCUS®
- Convalidation
- Mid-Life & Beyond

Marriage Enrichment

- REFOCCUS®
- Deacon Formation

Languages:

English
Spanish Latin American
Chinese Simplified
Chinese Traditional
Czech
German
French European
Vietnamese



The Catholic marriage inventory since 1985.



FOCCUS® is a non-profit organization
founded and endorsed by the
Archdiocese of Omaha



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The Catechumenal
Pathways
— for —
Married Life
— & —
FOCCUS®
Marriage Ministries



FOCCUS® role – in – “Catechumenal Pathways for Married Life”

Does FOCCUS® have a role in the implementation of the Vatican document “Catechumenal Pathways for Married Life?”

FOCCUS® has a key role in one of the phases outlined in the document. In what is called the ‘Catechumenal Phase,’ the couple is asked to have in-depth discussions about their relationship and married life. Here is where FOCCUS® can have a significant impact. Guided by a trained FOCCUS® Facilitator, the couple will discuss important topics such as religion, marriage readiness, finances, parenting, and communication. Hopefully, this process will teach the couple how to have trusting conversations for the rest of their lives.

The Pathways approach points out the need for ‘personalized pastoral accompaniment’ for the engaged couple. Does FOCCUS® offer any of this?

FOCCUS® has seen that some couples have specific areas that they need to discuss. Consequently, FOCCUS® offers a series of questions that couples can respond to if they are in that specialized group. For example, there are questions for those entering an Interfaith Marriage. There are questions for couples cohabitating, for those who already have children, and for those who are remarrying. For couples who have already entered a civil marriage, there is a special FOCCUS® Inventory for them entitled ‘Convalidation.’ There is also an Inventory called ‘Mid-Life and Beyond’ for those who fall in this period of life. Special circumstances require special attention.

Catechumenal Pathways calls for a series of rituals that will help the couple transition from one phase to the next. Does FOCCUS® offer any rituals?

When the FOCCUS® discussions are completed, the Facilitator is encouraged to lead the couple in a prayer service to celebrate this progress. Prayers are supplied for this purpose. The Facilitator is also encouraged to give a memento to the couple in remembrance of their time together. FOCCUS® offers bookmarks, holy cards, and a Rosary Meditation for Engaged Couples that are apropos for this situation. Following this ritual, the couple is ready to move on to the ‘final preparations’ for the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage.

The third stage of the Catechumenal Pathways is entitled: ‘Accompaniment during first years of married life.’ Is FOCCUS® a part of this?

When the Facilitator is from the couple’s parish, then there is a real opportunity for them to stay connected to the couple. The Facilitator can encourage the couple to attend Mass and to get involved in parish life. This connection is invaluable for a young couple.

After the couple has been married for a few years, FOCCUS® Marriage Ministries offers an Inventory called REFOCCUS®. This is a marriage enrichment process that can be done either with a Facilitator or in a group setting. REFOCCUS® is a wonderful way to build on all the important topics that the couple first discussed in FOCCUS®. And an added benefit is that it can be taken many times throughout married life.

Evangelization is a key element in Catechumenal Pathways. Does FOCCUS® have a role here?

A major category of FOCCUS® is called Covenant/Commitment. One of the questions is: ‘I consider a faith relationship with Jesus Christ an important aspect in our marriage.’ This and other related questions will lead the couple into a deep discussion of faith. This also gives the Facilitator an opportunity to share the importance of their faith. These questions, along with the Facilitator/Couple relationship, can have a major influence on the couple regarding faith in Jesus Christ.

The Facilitator is also encouraged to open and/or close each session with a prayer. Suggested prayers are available in the Facilitator Report. This helps set the tone that prayer is key to the success of a marriage.

Pathways points out the importance of accompanying couples who find themselves in crisis. Does FOCCUS® have any relevance here?

When the couple finishes the FOCCUS® discussions, they receive a ‘Couple Take Home Report’ which includes a list of resources for various concerns such as Infertility and Domestic Violence. They also receive a prayer that encourages them to ask God for help in the day-to-day struggles of family life.

On another note, if they had a good relationship with their Facilitator and pastor during their marriage preparation, the hope is that they will connect with one of them at this crucial time.

**Document can be found at foccusinc.com/research.aspx*

FOCCUS MISSION STATEMENT

Creating holy, happy, and healthy marriages through intimate & loving conversations by nurturing an enthusiastic marriage preparation & enrichment community.