



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

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OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

October 24, 2018

Dear Brother Bishop:

May God bless you! I recently accepted the position of Episcopal Moderator of Catholic Engaged Encounter (CEE). I would like to let you know a little bit about this wonderful ministry to our couples approaching the Sacrament of Matrimony. Especially in light of our Holy Father's Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, this program of marriage preparation is more relevant than ever.

On a personal note, I have been involved in Catholic Engaged Encounter since 1982 and have witnessed firsthand its power and grace for engaged couples.

It is important to note that CEE does not compete with the various diocesan programs throughout the country. It is intended to be a complementary effort, which collaborates and cooperates with Family Life offices. CEE has been implemented successfully throughout the United States for more than 40 years and has expanded to over 22 countries throughout the world.

Just in the U.S. last year, CEE served approximately 10,000 couples. In Mexico, South Africa, and Panama it is considered to be the "gold standard" preferred program for marriage preparation.

In recent years, there has been concern due to perceived indifference to CEE from some priests and family life directors, which is one of the reasons I am writing to you today. It would be very helpful to re-emphasize this wonderful program in each of our dioceses so as to improve the overall marriage preparation throughout our country. Thank you for anything you can do to promote Catholic Engaged Encounter in your own diocese.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all the supportive bishops who have CEE as the primary marriage prep program in their dioceses. I also want to thank Serafin and Maria Valdez, the national directors of CEE, for their generous leadership.

With assurance of my deepest friendship, esteem, and prayers, I am

Fraternally yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, D.D.
Archbishop of Louisville