

Introduction to Lo Duc DBHN-Marriage Prep Program

(FALL 2024)

Summary of Program Requirements:

Participation in and completion of Our Lady of Lourdes' Marriage Prep Program will include:

1. FULL completion in Engaged Encounter Weekend Retreat on October 10th – 13th, 2024, beginning on **Thursday** at 6:00PM to **Sunday** at 12:00PM. It is an **OVERNIGHT** retreat at LLT Retreat Center, Houston.
2. Complete the "Prepare-Enrich" Relationship Assessment On-Line Survey as a couple BEFORE attendance of Weekend Retreat. See www.prepare-enrich.com. Each couple will be assigned a Mentor, and **your Mentor will set you up on the site before** you are able to complete the survey.
3. Meet in person or online as a couple with your assigned Mentor at least 2 times after the Weekend Retreat in order to discuss relevant marriage and family topics, questions, or concerns that are unique to your relationship. Your Mentor will work with you to coordinate schedules.

NOTE: Individuals who attend this Marriage Prep program as a "Single" person (because your fiancé may be in Vietnam or another country), then you will not be required to complete the "Prepare-Enrich" Survey. However, you will be required to meet in person with your assigned Mentor to discuss marriage and family topics relevant to you.

The "Marriage Prep Certificate" will be awarded by the assigned Mentor to the engaged couple or person **AFTER** completion of all three components.

Program Overview:

Our Lady of Lourdes' marriage preparation program addresses all of the key topics and components of marriage and family, as outlined by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. It is also designed to allow engaged couples the opportunity to share and discuss issues that are unique in their relationship with one another, as well as with an assigned Mentor.

Marriage and family is a life-long journey that involves not only two individuals from two different backgrounds, but also touches upon every important aspect of life including communication, finances, sexuality, roles & responsibilities, friends & family, children, and faith. It is probably the most important decision and investment you could make for a joy-filled life . . . for yourself, your children, and children's children. Many engaged couples dread about having to "make time" to attend the weekend retreat, but by the time they leave, they usually say that it was the best investment they could have made for their marriage and family.

To sign up:

1. Download the registration form from our parish website (www.loduc.org), then complete and submit the registration form along with retreat fees to the PARISH OFFICE by **no later than Monday September 30th, 2024**. Payment could be in either Cash or Check (made

payable to “Our Lady of Lourdes”). Registration fee is **\$300/person**, and will cover all expenses including lodging, meals, books, supplies, etc.

2. Upon registration, each engaged couple will be assigned to a Mentor who will work directly with the engaged couple throughout the preparation process. The Mentor will set up a user profile for the engaged couple to complete the “Prepare-Enrich” online relationship assessment, which will highlight the strengths and improvement opportunities that are unique to their relationship. (You cannot complete the assessment until your Mentor has set you up on the system). When completing the online assessment, the engaged couple will make a \$35 payment for the **couple** directly to Prepare-Enrich for the assessment. This is the only other preparation cost outside of the registration fee. The engaged couple must complete the online relationship assessment BEFORE participation in the weekend retreat.
3. The engaged couples will attend the Engaged Encounter Weekend Retreat on the weekend of **October 10th – 13th, 2024**. This is an **overnight** weekend retreat, and is **MANDATORY** for all engaged couples or participants.

Location: Dong Tan Hien, 20303 Kermier Road. Waller, Texas 77484

<http://www.nhatinhthamlethithanh.org/>

Check in: **Thursday**, October 10th, **6:00PM**

Check out: **Sunday**, October 13th, **12:00PM (noon)**

4. All of our required classroom presentations and discussions will be conducted in this very condensed weekend, so please make arrangements in advance in order to be present throughout the entire weekend. **No exceptions please**. We will not be able to issue any refunds for cancellations after Monday October 7th as bookings with the Retreat Center has already been made.
5. Once the Engaged Encounter Weekend is completed, the engaged couple will coordinate with their Mentor to coordinate at least 2 in person meetings to relevant marriage and family topics, questions, or concerns that are unique to their relationships.
6. The Marriage Preparation Certification will be awarded by the Mentor to the engaged couple once all of the above activities have been completed.

We are making the information for the upcoming Marriage Prep Program available as soon as possible so that engaged couples will register and participate in a timely manner, or to find alternative Preparation Programs if they do not feel that they can commit fully to all of the above preparation activities. Your marriage and family is too important for us to take short cuts or make exceptions.

NOTE: Most couples are not usually aware that there are 2 independent, but related steps in getting married in the Church: 1) The first is to actually contact the Parish Office where you are intending to get married and begin the paperwork process at least 6 months prior to anticipated wedding date; and 2) Attend the Marriage Preparation program, then receive a “Certificate” upon completion.