

Spring Marriage Supplement

A special section of *The Criterion* celebrating Christian marriage



MARRIAGE

one flesh, given and received

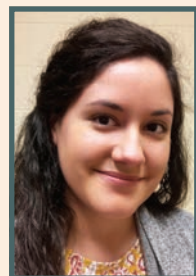
National Marriage Week USA • Every Feb 7-14

Establishing a mission and core values helps couples prioritize family life at any stage

By Gabriela Ross

“Do you remember what led you to choose the person you married?”

I recently heard this question proposed as a way for families to discover their core values. The idea was that whatever values attracted you to your spouse begin to reveal what you value as a family, over other good things. These are the things that bring you together and help you to choose how you spend your time, talent and treasure.



Gabriela Ross

In our archdiocesan Pre-Cana retreats for engaged couples, we spend some time talking about marriage as a mission, and the engaged couples have the opportunity to reflect on the mission of their marriage.

For the newly married couple with growing careers and many social engagements, knowing their family mission and values keeps them grounded and helps them decide what opportunities to seize and invitations to accept.

For the young family who is learning to stay

afloat with the demands of little children, having clarity on why they are going through the hustle day after day brings peace and purpose in the midst of growth.

For the family with older kids and increasing extracurricular demands, a mission and core values provide a measure for saying yes to good things and no to other good things that don't fully align.

For grandparents, there is an opportunity to revisit family values and mission in light of new generations and decide how that mission will be lived out anew.

For those who are single and feeling called to marriage, reflecting on one's own core values and looking for core values in a potential spouse will offer food for thought in the process of discernment, not just of marriage to one's beloved, but of the family life that will be built together, by God's grace.

Those who are married and have not been able to have children are especially called to consider the mission of their marriage, based on their core values, because every marriage is meant to be generously open to life and bear fruit. This is most tangibly seen in having and raising children, but it is also seen in the vocation of husband and wife as a family, to be the Church in the world

and to embrace spiritual motherhood and spiritual fatherhood.

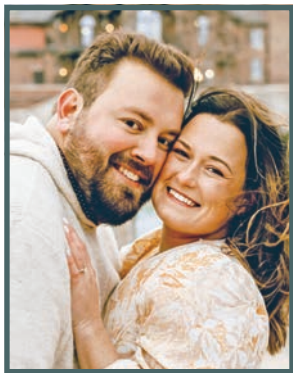
Couples who are baptized Christians and practicing Catholics have a common ground from which to form their family values and discern their mission. Couples who do not see eye-to-eye in matters of faith and morals will have greater challenges to be united in vision and make important decisions for their family life. The Church acknowledges this reality when Catholics marry non-Catholics by asking the Catholic parties if they understand their responsibility to practice their faith, baptize their children and raise them in the faith, even when the other parties are not participating.

Still, the question remains for all spouses: How did God lead you to the person you married, and what virtues did you see in each other that form the foundation for the mission that God has entrusted to your family life?

(Gabriela Ross is the director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis. The Office of Marriage and Family Life exists to promote the vocation, restoration and mission of the family. She can be reached at gross@archindy.org or 317-592-4007.) †

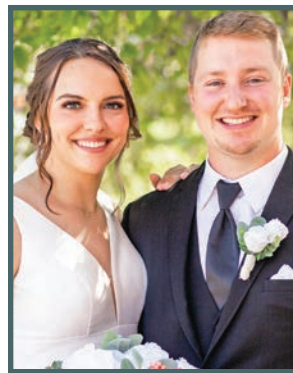
Wedding Announcements

Barnes-Annee



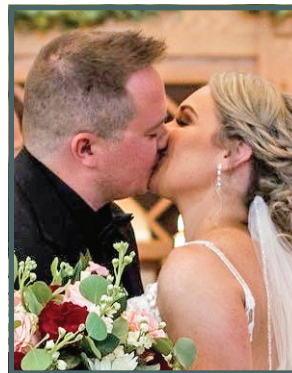
Meghan Barnes and Michael Annee will be married on June 17 at Christ the King Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Vince and Michelle Barnes. The groom is the son of Joe and Jenny Annee.

Ertel-Nixon



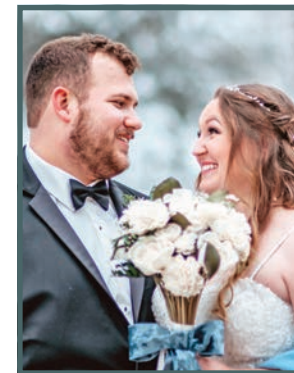
Emily Rose Ertel and Nickolas David Nixon were married on June 18, 2022, at St. Mary Church in North Vernon. The bride is the daughter of Ed and Paula Ertel. The groom is the son of Todd and Nancy Nixon.

Henn-Brite



Sydney Ellen Henn and Zakary Douglas Brite were married on Oct. 15, 2022, at St. Jude Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Deacon David and Mary Ellen Henn. The groom is the son of Michael and Evelyn Brite.

Koepfer-Myers



Kara Nicole Koepfer and Thomas Clifford Myers were married on Nov. 12, 2022, at St. Agnes Church in Nashville. The bride is the daughter of Chris and Dee Koepfer. The groom is the son of Cliff and Ann Myers.

Pence-Kozik



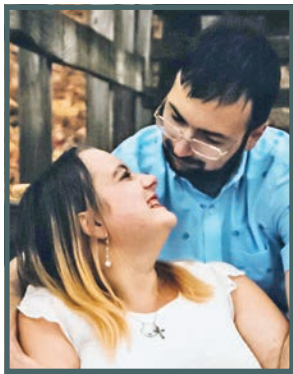
Jennifer Elizabeth Pence and Eric Franklin Kozik will be married on March 25 at St. Mary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Thomas and Melissa Pence. The groom is the son of Frank Kozik and Christine Simpson.

Wallander-Schaller



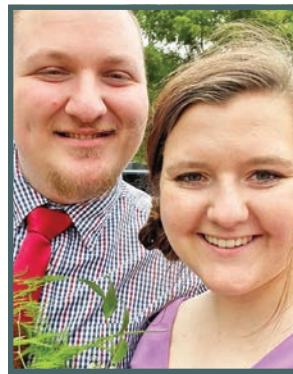
Mary Margaret Wallander and Lucas John Schaller were married on Oct. 1, 2022, at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Gregg and Cindy Wallander. The groom is the son of Ted and Judy Schaller.

Coons-Simmons



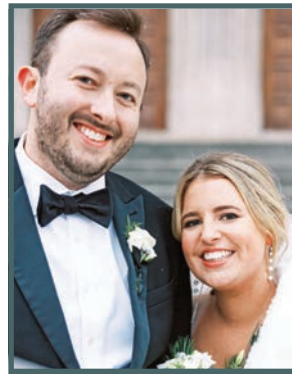
Elizabeth Nicole Coons and Adam Christopher Simmons will be married on May 20 at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Beech Grove. The bride is the daughter of Thomas and Sabine Coons. The groom is the son of Mark and Sonnie Simmons.

Fenton-Worden



Theresa Marie Fenton and Anthony Carl Worden will be married on June 10 at Marian University's Bishop Chartrand Memorial Chapel at Marian University in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Joseph and Laura Fenton. The groom is the son of Michael and Mary Worden.

Hession-Annee



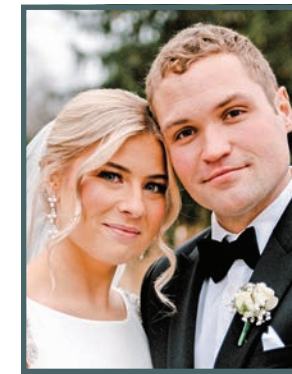
Anna Hession and Nick Annee were married on Dec. 17, 2022, at St. Malachy Church in Brownsburg. The bride is the daughter of Matt and Debbie Hession. The groom is the son of Joe and Jenny Annee.

Kolb-O'Bryan



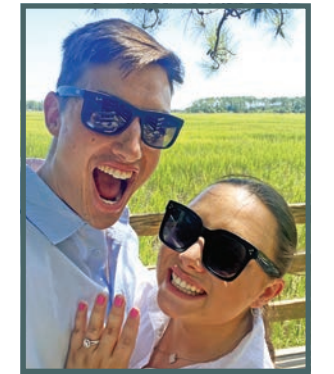
Karlee Kolb and Tom O'Bryan were married on Dec. 17, 2022, at St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Keith and Tracey Kolb. The groom is the son of Larry and Nancy O'Bryan.

Perkins-Perkins



Nancy Eleanor Perkins and Ross Stanley Perkins were married on Dec. 10, 2022, at St. Matthew the Apostle Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Ben and Andrea Perkins. The groom is the son of Scott and Amy Perkins.

Wallis-Surface



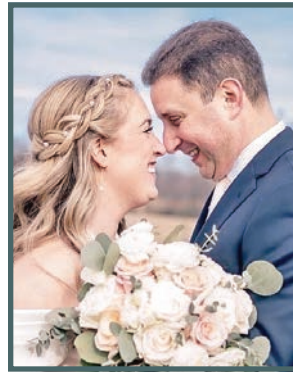
Amy Josephine Wallis and Ron Surface will be married on June 10 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington. The bride is the daughter of Jeff and Karen Wallis. The groom is the son of Ron and Nancy Surface.

Duffell-Bex



Courtney Anna Duffell and Andrew David Bex will be married on June 24 at St. Malachy Church in Brownsburg. The bride is the daughter of William and Carla Duffell. The groom is the son of David and Candace Bex.

Finn-Shepard



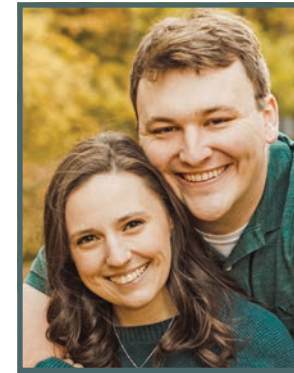
Abigail Huter Finn and Steven Gerald Shepard will be married on Nov. 26, 2022, at St. John the Baptist Church in Starlight. The bride is the daughter of Walter and Mary Beth Finn. The groom is the son of Gary and Marilyn Shepard.

Jarvi-Zander



Emily Jean Jarvi and Kevin Noland Zander will be married on April 14 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Michael and Amy Jarvi. The groom is the son of Anthony and Jean Zander.

Lovig-Stonebraker



Julia Rose Lovig and James Robert Stonebraker will be married on June 24 at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Bloomington. The bride is the daughter of Daniel and Lorraine Lovig. The groom is the son of James and Julie Stonebraker.

Rulong-Hayden



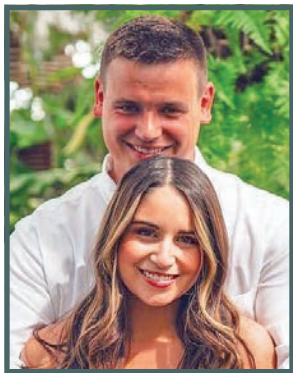
Amanda Jane Rulong and James Christopher Hayden will be married on April 29 at St. Joan of Arc Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Scott and Karen Rulong. The groom is the son of Chip and Gina Hayden.

York-Stacy



Merrilee Ann York and Trevor Ray Stacy will be married on June 10 at St. Mary Church in Greensburg. The bride is the daughter of Tyler and Melissa York. The groom is the son of Tony and Jean Stacy.

Endris-Jahnke



Eliza Cruz Endris and Luke Joseph Jahnke will be married on April 29 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Martin Endris and Shannon Hansell. The groom is the son of David and Amy Jahnke.

Hagedorn-Moran



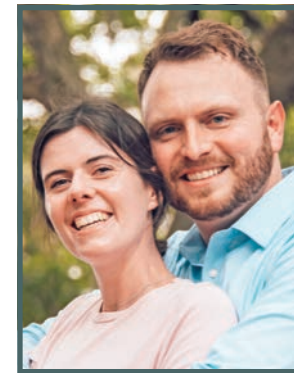
Kalin Renae Hagedorn and Matthew Thomas Moran will be married on Sept. 2, 2022, at St. Pius X Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Jerome and Michelle Hagedorn. The groom is the son of Kevin Moran and Margaret Lewis.

Joyce-King



Jillian Ashley Joyce and Justin Turner Peabody were married on Sept. 2, 2022, at St. Pius X Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Robert Joyce and Laura Schilling-Joyce. The groom is the son of Richard King II and Toni Peabody.

McDonagh-Lecher



Meredith Emily McDonagh and Patrick Joseph Lecher will be married on April 22 at St. Patrick Church in Bryan, Ohio. The bride is the daughter of John and Katherine McDonagh. The groom is the son of Steven and Edith Lecher.

Spinazze-Cunningham



Gabriella Spinazze and Thomas Cunningham will be married on June 3 at St. Mary Church in Indianapolis. The bride is the daughter of Russell Spinazze and Cheryl Nakfoor. The groom is the son of Philip and Pamela Cunningham.



Pre-Cana Retreats, Tobit Weekend and One in Christ program prepare engaged couples for marriage

Criterion staff report

Three marriage preparation programs offered in the archdiocese—the Pre-Cana Conference, Tobit Weekend and One in Christ—help prepare engaged couples for the sacrament of marriage as well as the challenges of married life.

Early registration is recommended for all programs, as each fills up quickly.

PRE-CANA RETREATS

Pre-Cana Retreats cover skills for marriage, a catechesis on the sacrament of marriage and an introduction to the science and morals behind natural family planning. They are offered in English in Indianapolis and New Albany, and in Spanish in Columbus. The upcoming Pre-Cana Retreats are scheduled as follows:

Indianapolis (8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. each day, \$200 per couple, more information and registration at www.archindy.org/precana);

- April 15-16 at Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Parish, 7225 Southeastern Ave.
- Sept. 23-24 at Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St.

Columbus: There are no Pre-Cana retreats currently scheduled in Columbus. For more information, call St. Bartholomew Parish at 812-379-9353 and dial ext. 1235 for Maria Nieto or ext. 1231 for Karen Camargo, or email mnieto@stbparish.net or kcamargo@stbparish.net.

New Albany: The next one-day Pre-Cana Retreat in New Albany will take place in the fall; the date is still to be determined. For more information, call 812-923-8355 or go to catalystcatholic.org/precana.

TOBIT WEEKEND

Tobit Weekend retreats take place at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, 5353 E. 56th St., in Indianapolis, and are offered in English. The cost is \$298, which includes program materials, meals, snacks and two rooms for two nights.

The next retreats take place on April 28-30, June 23-25 and Sept. 15-17.

To register, go to www.archindy.org/fatima/calendar/tobit.html. For registration questions, contact Jennifer Burger at jburger@archindy.org or 317-545-7681. For more information about the program and its contents, contact Cheryl McSweeney at cmsweeney@archindy.org or 317-545-7681, ext. 106.

ONE IN CHRIST

One in Christ marriage preparation, which includes a medical panel to address questions on reproduction and fertility, is a three-day program spanning a weekend and the following Saturday. The first day of the program is 8 a.m.-5 p.m., the second day is 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and the third day is 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The cost is \$300 per couple, which covers meals and materials.

There are two upcoming One in Christ opportunities:

- March 11, 12 and 25 at Our Lady of the Greenwood Parish, 335 S. Meridian St., in Greenwood.

- May 20, 21 and June 3 at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 10655 Haverstick Road, in Carmel, Ind. (Lafayette Diocese).

To register, go to oicindy.com/seminar-registration. For more information call 317-600-5629, e-mail info@OICindy.com or go to www.OICindy.com.

Live retreats offer an invaluable experience for engaged couples and are the expected formation option.

However, for couples who experience significant difficulties attending a live retreat, including but not limited to preparing for marriage while out of state or country, being deployed in the armed forces or inflexible shift work at a hospital or factory, the online and self-paced Joy-Filled Marriage course ensures that no one misses out on valuable and comprehensive marriage formation. It is available in English and Spanish, and the cost is \$105.

For more information or to register, go to www.archindy.org/precana.

Wedding Anniversary Mass with Archbishop Thompson is set for Aug. 27

The archdiocesan Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass, to be celebrated by Archbishop Charles C. Thompson, will take place at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis, at 2 p.m. on Aug. 27. A reception will follow across the street at the Archbishop Edward T. O'Meara Catholic Center.

The Mass and reception, sponsored by the archdiocesan Office of Marriage and Family Life, are for all couples of the archdiocese married sacramentally in the Catholic Church. All couples who register will receive a certificate.

The event is free but registration is required and will open in May at cutt.ly/AnniversaryMass.

For additional questions, contact Claudia Corona at 317-236-7310 or ccorona@archindy.org.

Couples may announce engagement or marriage next spring in *The Criterion*

Engagement announcements will be published in the July 28 issue of *The Criterion* for couples marrying between July 14 and Feb. 1, 2024, in a marriage that is recognized by the Church as a valid sacramental or valid natural marriage.

Submissions may also be sent by couples who wed this year between Jan. 1 and July 14 in a marriage as described above if they did not publish their engagement in *The Criterion*.

The wedding announcement form is available online at cutt.ly/CriterionWeddings.

An engagement or wedding photo may be sent to alewis@archindy.org. Digital photos must be clear, high-resolution images with the couple close together. Photos can also be mailed to Ann Lewis, 1400 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN, 46202. To receive the photo back, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Due to print quality, Xerox copies of photos will not be accepted. †

'Life-giving' ministry helps heal wounds of adult children of divorce

By Natalie Hoefler

As Gabriela Ross became more involved in marriage preparation ministry, she noticed a coincidence—about divorce.

"I see in my marriage preparation ministry how divorce affects a person's choice to embrace the vocation of marriage, and how the unaddressed wounds of their family of origin bring discord into their new family life," said the archdiocesan director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life.

"While there has been some awareness and response to the needs of Catholics who experience divorce," she said, there was little in the way of Church ministry to address "the wounds and effects of divorce on children, whether they were in childhood or adulthood when the family breakdown took place."

Life-Giving Wounds fills that ministerial void.

It was founded in 2018 by Dr. Daniel and Bethany Meola. The parents of two children met and married while studying for master's degrees at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family in Washington.

"When he was studying there for his Ph.D., that's when the Institute started working on Recovering Origins, a weekend conference on the effects of divorce on children," said Bethany on behalf of her husband, who was out of town at the time of the interview.

"It really connected with Dan, because of his experience" with his parents' separation when he was a child and their divorce when he was 26. "He got heavily involved in what [the Institute was] doing with their pastoral approach to adult children of divorce."

From the Recovering Origins conference, Daniel created a weekend retreat in 2015 for adults who, whether as children or adults, experienced the separation or divorce of their parents.

"When we were discussing what we would do when he graduated, we were encouraged by a priest to pursue our life passion in marriage and families," Bethany said. "We wanted to develop the retreat further and offer it throughout the country. The Institute gave us their blessing."

So began the ministry in 2018. The couple brought not only their degrees focusing on marriage and families and Daniel's experience leading retreats, but also Bethany's seven years serving on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth.

Now, Life-Giving Wounds three-day retreats for adults ages 18 and older are offered in 10 locations in the U.S.—with several more in the works—as well as an online retreat in the fall that takes place weekly for seven weeks.

The retreats are divided into three topics. First is "uncovering and grieving



Dr. Daniel and Bethany Meola are the founders of Life-Giving Wounds, a ministry that helps heal the wounds of adult children whose parents at some point separated or divorced. (Submitted photo)

various layers of the wound" participants experienced in their parents' separation or divorce, according to the Life-Giving Wounds website. The focus then shifts to "accepting their deepest identity as a beloved child of God and becoming more aware of Christ in their lives and wounds." Finally, the retreat helps participants discover "a way forward to sustain healing and a mission in the midst of their suffering."

A traveling team leads the first retreat in a location. They also train local leaders to lead future retreats in that location.

"It's a peer ministry, so the people leading it are by large adult children of divorce, so they can give that witness of having gone through the experience of healing through Christ and are able to give back to others," said Bethany. "It's a blessing for people to hear from those who really get it."

The organization also offers online blogs, online support groups and other resources.

"The support groups don't have a curriculum like the retreats," explained Bethany, who serves as the organization's vice president of operations, communications and development and as board secretary. "We try to address topics that are similar but don't go into them as deep as the retreats."

Amanda DeRoche has attended two online retreats.

"Some people do it every time," said the 34-year-old member of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. "It's a

good base for exploring this part of your life story."

DeRoche appreciates the presence of a retreat leader with a psychology background, "so it brings in psychology and science along with theology."

She also appreciates connecting with others who not only "share the same life experience but also share your theological viewpoint. I can talk to friends at the office whose parents divorced, but it's different when you can talk about it with people who share your faith."

DeRoche said the retreats offer a "very specific approach to the experience through the lens of the Church. It's about how you're impacted [by your parents' divorce or separation], regardless of the situation—it could've been a positive experience in your family."

"But we know [divorce and separation are] not what God intended, so it creates a wound. It's the loss of your parents' love together, regardless of how that pans out, positive or negative, because we know what God intended for the sacrament of marriage."

Recognizing those wounds is the first step toward healing, she said, a step the Life-Giving Wounds retreats helped her acknowledge. From there, the blogs and support groups can help with healing and moving forward, "along with other things like spiritual direction, counseling and prayer, depending on each person's need," said DeRoche.

She was initially drawn to the retreat after a "relationship change" that made her reflect on her vocation.

"I wanted to focus on the call to marriage and thought maybe my parents' divorce had an effect on me, that maybe I needed to explore that more."

Bethany said anytime is a good time for adults to explore wounds from their parents' separation or divorce, but especially those preparing for marriage.

"It's important for Catholic leaders—and especially those working in marriage preparation or young adult ministry—to

realize the impact [their parents' divorce or separation] can have on their own call to marriage," she said.

"People who come from a divorced family are less likely to marry, more likely to cohabitate, more likely to struggle in their own marriage or get divorced, less likely to be open to children or more likely to experience a fear of having children—it's all been proven."

"They need mentors to give them witness that this lifelong commitment can be happy!"

Bethany noted that the retreat content "doesn't just talk about marriage. We talk about identity, faith life, our relationship with God, emotions—there's so much that's covered. But all of that can help people be more equipped for marriage if that's the Lord's call for them."

Ross couldn't agree more. "Life-Giving Wounds has been prophetic in seeing the needs of the Church in our world today, particularly addressing the breakdown of the family," she said. "If we are serious about the Church being a family of families and supporting the family as a domestic Church, then we need to acknowledge that the breakdown of a family has ripple effects on a psychological and spiritual level, and the Church is called to shine the light of Christ in those dark places and bring people to healing through Christ and his Church."

The Office of Marriage and Family Life is working with the organization, with hopes of starting a chapter in the archdiocese and making retreats available here in 2024.

Ross said the Life-Giving Wounds program "was written from the heart of the Church, with some of the most talented national ministry leaders, who themselves have experienced the wound of divorce in their families."

"I would recommend this retreat and ministry to anyone who has experienced their parents' divorce or separation as a way to reflect on their experience through the eyes of faith and be more rooted in their identity as sons and daughters of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, after which every family is modeled."

(For more information on Life-Giving Wounds, to sign up for a retreat or support group or to view their online resources, go to lifegivingwounds.org. The next online support group will begin on March 2.) †



(Photo illustration by Natalie Hoefler)