

GET IN TOUCH

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stfrancis.ws/remarriageretreat



"Phenomenal!!!"

- Retreat participant

"Very informative!"

- Retreat participant



UPCOMING RETREATS

- July 29-30, 2023
- September 23-24, 2023
- May 18-19, 2024
- July 13-14, 2024
- September 28-29, 2024



DIocese of LANSING
MICHIGAN

ST. FRANCIS RETREAT CENTER



MARRIAGE AND THE BLENDED FAMILY

*A Marriage Preparation
Retreat*

Meet the Team



Steve and Mary Manuel

Steve and Mary Manuel have been married since October 2014. Steve has been Catholic his entire life; Mary grew up Lutheran and converted to Catholicism in 2019. This blended family includes 3 sons (34, 33 and 28) from a previous marriage and one daughter (6), together. They hope to share what they have learned and inspire others to realize the blessings they enjoy as a result of working together on their marriage and blended family through this ministry



Kevin and Louise Perrotta

Before their wedding in 1991, Louise had never been married. Kevin had been married to Mary for 19 years and had had six children with her. The new marriage, two years after Mary's death, was challenging in different ways for Louise, Kevin, and each of the children, the youngest of whom was seven at the time. Reconfigured family life did not instantly spring into existence. Mary's death continued to overshadow the children for a long time. Kevin and Louise share their experience of living through this together with the help of the Lord.



Dcn Todd and Jodi Dahlberg

Deacon Todd Dahlberg and Jodi were married in July 2010. Jodi was widowed in 2004, and Todd was divorced in 2005. Together they have five children and six grandchildren. Both Todd and Jodi are converts to Catholicism, Jodi in 1993 and Todd in 2009, and currently they attend St. Rita Parish in Clarklake.



Dcn Jasen and Heather Wright

Deacon Jasen and Heather Wright have been married 10 years. Heather and Jasen both have previous marriages annulled and each have 2 children from those marriages. Heather went thru the RCIA program and was brought into the church in 2010 and Jasen has been a lifelong Catholic and has recently been ordained as a deacon. Both are currently active at St. Joseph parish in Howell.

A Unique Retreat for Unique Couples

Typical marriage education programs and ministries are not sufficient for couples entering into blended family marriages. Since marriage in a stepfamily is a "package deal" you must minister to both the couple and "the package". This requires addressing dynamics related to ex-spouses and co-parenting, loss, stepparenting, spiritual shame, finances, and the expectations of both children and adults--just to name a few". To do anything less is grossly inadequate to prevent divorce. The Smart Stepfamilies program, created by author, therapist, and blended family expert Ron L. Deal, brings together these different aspects a stepfamily will encounter, in order to empower blended family couples and their extended family for successful family living.

