

September, 2013

Dear FOCCUS Ministry Partner,

Thank you for your service to engaged couples and your inquiry regarding the FOCCUS 4th Edition Pre-Marriage Inventory! This letter contains important details regarding the development of the FOCCUS 4th Edition as well as the information necessary to place your pre-order at a discount and in time for the expected January 2014 launch.

During the past two years, the FOCCUS team has conducted a systematic review of marriage preparation resources with input from marriage educators across the country and internationally, in both Catholic and non-Catholic settings. Attention was given to the Inventory and related materials for couples, facilitators and trainers. The input received was instrumental in the research and development plan for FOCCUS 4th Edition and a broader project that includes a marriage preparation curriculum, *Marriage: A Journey for Life*; *b'tween* resources that encourage ongoing couple discussion; and an *Engaged Couple Guide for Catholic Marriage Preparation*, which has been granted an imprimatur by Omaha Archbishop George J. Lucas. The work has been extensive, exciting and fruitful!

FOCCUS 4th Edition meets the real life needs of today's couples and those who are preparing them for marriage by building on the strong research base and trusted user-friendly FOCCUS format. Updates include an all new Catholic edition supporting critical areas of evangelization and formation for couples preparing to enter into a lifelong marriage in the Church and a new section, Couples with Children, developed especially for couples preparing for a valid marriage in the Church as well as couples with children who are preparing for marriage for the first time.

Incorporating changes to 85% of the previous Inventory, FOCCUS 4th Edition statements address pornography, technology, prayer in marriage and pets. The General and Catholic Editions have been professionally translated into Spanish and a Traditional Chinese translation is available for these and the Christian Edition. Additional translations will be offered in the future according to need. Other Editions include Orthodox Christian and the Alternate, which is often used with individuals who do not speak English as a first language or who have intellectual or development disabilities. Technology updates insure 24/7 access to the FOCCUS website where facilitators can easily download and print couple answer sheets in English and Spanish at no charge, along with Couple Reports, *b'tween* resources that include a Reflection and Discussion Guide, FOCCUS for the Future, and a Couple Completion Certificate.

In the final months of this calendar year, we are working hard to meet the demand for both the materials and the training needs of the current and new marriage educators who are joining the FOCCUS network. The FOCCUS 4th Edition Facilitator manual with two couple inventories of the facilitator's choice will be offered at a *50% discount if ordered between now and June, 2014*. We expect to begin shipping the manuals in December, 2013.

Please do not hesitate to contact us in preparation for the launch of FOCCUS 4th Edition!

With sincere gratitude for the opportunity to serve with you,



Paige Minturn
Operations Administrator



Valerie H. Conzett
Executive Director