



Archdiocese of Portland, OR, Collaboration with Marriage in Christ Celebration August 16th, 2019

Report on the event from Marriage in Christ coach couple Jim & Gina Kadera:

We had a beautiful evening gathering at 7pm at our home. There were 25 people present. We facilitated the event and, after welcoming everyone, Bishop Peter Smith led us in prayer.

There were recognitions and thanks extended to all six churches of the Archdiocese and their pastors that participated in this first year of seminars.

Corcallis/ Albany area: St. Mary's, Corvallis

St. Mary's, Albany

St. Edward, Lebanon

Portland: Our Lady of the Lake, Lake Oswego

Holy Cross, Portland

Holy Redeemer, Portland

Terry and Sally Aman shared about the successful seminars in the Corvallis/ Albany area, follow up gatherings and new seminars being planned for the fall. They also shared about a Mennonite congregation that approached them to start seminars in their church this fall. There will be two host couples being set up for training there by Tery and Sally for this church.

We gave an update on the seminars being planned for this fall in Lake Oswego and Portland as well as the successful seminars and follow up gatherings accomplished at two of the three churches in their group. There are plans being made for follow up seminars for October as well as the Ministry Fair at Holy Redeemer. There are tentative dates for another host couple training this fall as well.

We will all be reaching out to new churches in our areas for host couples and seminars this year.

Our main speaker was Bishop Peter Smith, Auxillary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Portland and Vicar General. He shared about marriage as part of our mission as Christians and in the Church.

He gave a wider view on Marriage in Christ not just being part of our local church but part of the Church as a whole. He shared that in the Portland archdiocese, 51% of Catholic's attending our churches are Spanish speaking. There is a great desire and call to unity in our churches.

He spoke about how our marriages in Christ speak to society and can change the culture of marriage locally. That we are called to be witnesses for Christ through our marriages and inviting others to experience support for their marriages through Marriage in Christ.

Joel Kibler, Superior of the Brotherhood of the People of Praise Christian Community, and author of Marriage in Christ gave us some closing reflections on Marriage in Christ. He shared where Marriage in Christ is moving toward in the coming year.

He shared that Fr. Patrick Neary, CSC, (the Congregation of Holy Cross) Pastor of Holy Redeemer church in Portland had a keen desire for a Spanish version for his Spanish speaking parishioners. He approached his order and obtained a large donation to support the translation and printing costs. Joel and Phil and Eury Gordon have completed the translation into Spanish of the *Seminar Manual!* He held it up for us to see and everyone cheered! Deacon Felix Garcia and his wife, Dinese were present. He has responsibility for all of the Spanish ministry for the Archdiocese. He is very excited about this and will be encouraging the development of it in the churches. There will be a pilot seminar this fall at Holy Redeemer in Portland and Phil and Eury will be hosting this.

Joel shared of the financial needs and sacrifices of the National Office of Marriage in Christ and encouraged people to be generous in their donations. Pledge cards were available for all present. In discussion with other guests afterwards we will make pledge cards available at all of our seminars going forward.

We closed with prayer and a sharing from Pope Francis inviting us to "Dream God's Dream"
Amoris Laetitia 320

