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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Marriages of Grace is a 501c3 non-profit organization whose mission is to enrich and strengthen Catholic marriages in the Diocese of Cleveland. It is their belief, and mine, that although couples receive formation prior to getting married, and are able to seek help when they find themselves in trouble, little is offered that continuously nurtures these same husbands and wives. The goal of *Marriages of Grace* is to ensure that all Catholic marriages receive such nourishment and are given the resources necessary to persevere in a culture that is becoming increasingly challenging to the institution of marriage. As your bishop, I endorse their goal and mission.

Marriages of Grace offers support throughout a Catholic couple's life-long journey via its annual Marriage Enrichment and bimonthly CanaNights. CanaNights are "date nights" that provide couples an opportunity for fellowship while learning about a topic related to marriage and family life. CanaNights feature social time with appetizers, cocktails, and a speaker followed by a Q&A session. The structure of CanaNights is similar to the Theology on Tap series, and harnesses the resources of our seminary professors, diocesan priests, and deacons.

For more than a decade, their annual day-long Marriage Enrichment has provided ongoing learning in a prayerful environment with other Catholic couples seeking to live a joyful, vibrant marriage centered on Christ. This retreat includes a keynote speaker, breakout sessions, confessions, Mass, dinner and social time. I presided at their opening Mass this past March and was deeply impressed. Former speakers include Fr. Joseph Koopman, Fr. Damian Ference, Fr. Patrick Schultz, Fr. Ryan Mann, Dr. Ray Guarendi, Teresa Tomeo, and Brooke Taylor. Next year's Marriage Enrichment is scheduled for February 29th and will feature EWTN theologian and convert, Dr. David Anders.

The priestly and religious vocation depends on holy married love. It is my hope that you will lend your prayerful support to *Marriages of Grace* by welcoming their initiatives in your parish. Please encourage your married and engaged couples to join in their events, volunteer to hear confessions, offer Mass, and enjoy fellowship with them. For more information, please visit www.marriagesofgrace.org or email info@marriagesofgrace.org.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Nelson. J. Perez, D.D.
Bishop of Cleveland