



*Supper*  
&  
*Substance*  
**MANUAL**

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## **Introduction to Supper & Substance**

Over three thousand couples from approximately seventy parishes have attended a Supper and Substance Program. The program provides the opportunity for couples to have an evening out together while enjoying a nice meal and witnessing an inspiring presentation. Couples will be able to create relationships with other couples that may be walking along similar paths and sharing similar experiences. Couples have been strengthened and parishes have grown closer together in this simple yet effective program.

The evening includes two segments: the meal (SUPPER) and the presentation (SUBSTANCE). Both segments can be and have been carried out in a variety of fashions.

SUPPER includes a simple but delicious meal often centered on a theme (i.e. Italian, Cajun, Valentine, etc.). Many parishes put emphasis on creating a romantic atmosphere by providing candles or dimmed lighting, flowers, music, etc, while other parishes create more of a party atmosphere with prizes, music, and gimmick centerpieces and dress. The décor and food usually match the theme of the evening. Some parishes use a more traditional setting rather than a specific theme. Whatever the parish's committee decides is fine – there are no “rules” to what the SUPPER consists of; however, *one of the goals of a Supper and Substance is to keep the dinner cost low.*

SUBSTANCE features a presentation by a carefully chosen couple that shares the joys and struggles of living their sacrament. The purpose of this part of the evening is to gain insight about the sacrament of matrimony from a couple's lived experience. The presentation is normally around 30-35 minutes and occurs during dessert.

*Some parishes have even offered a mass to open their evening as sort of a “Supreme Supper and Substance.”*

Other parish groups (Youth Group, Knights of Columbus, etc.) may be recruited to help with various tasks that the formed committees may need assistance with (set-up, serving, cooking, clean-up, etc.). This is a great way to share the beauty of the sacrament of marriage with others in the parish!

This manual is designed to assist you with your own parish Supper & Substance Program. Use this manual as a guide to constructing a well thought-out, creative, and inspiring experience for everyone involved.

The Willwoods Community promotes Supper and Substance by offering assistance through the Faith and Marriage Office to help parishes organize and maintain this marriage enrichment program. For additional information, please contact the Faith and Marriage Office at (504) 830-3716 or check our website at [www.willwoods.org](http://www.willwoods.org) for additional information.

## **Chapter 1: Forming Your Team**

### **I. Forming Your Team:**

#### **a. Overview:**

- i. The first step in your Supper and Substance journey is choosing your team. This is a very important step, as these are the people who will be responsible for “making it happen,” therefore, you need leaders and enthusiasts.

### **II. Choosing Your Chairman:**

- a. It’s important to convey to this person that they WILL NOT carry this job alone. An entire team will work on this event together, so as to never overwhelm one person. This person is intended to choose the other committee members and “get the ball rolling.” The chairman must then oversee all aspects of the dinner, calling meetings, and then keeping in touch with each committee to see that they are on track.
- b. Seek someone holding the following characteristics: true concern for the program and determination to get it rolling, enthusiasm and ability to motivate others, strong communication skills, pleasant personality enabling that person to get along well with a variety of people, and someone who may know different groups of people in the parish or be extroverted enough to reach out to new couples in the parish.

### **III. Choosing Your CORE Team Members (couples):**

- a. The chairman should “hand-pick” a suggested group of 8-12 couples/volunteers. When selecting your core team of couples, look for couples that contain the following characteristics: hardworking, ability to work as a team, concern and love for the parish, enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication to make the dinner a success.
- b. Try to choose a bit of variety in your committee couples. Consider your committees: decoration, promotion, volunteer/server coordination, and catering/solicitation. When considering couples for solicitation, approach couples that may be involved with organizations that may be able to help in this respect. It is helpful to use your resources and think of the gifts and talents of the friends around you. Creativity and variety are key factors in a strong Supper and Substance team!

### **IV. Additional Volunteer Couples:**

- a. If additional couples express the desire to help with Supper & Substance, take their names and phone numbers and call upon them if spots open up on the committee. Having too many couples involved in the process can be somewhat distracting.

## **Chapter 2: BOOK IT! / 3 MONTHS IN ADVANCE...**

### **I. Book the Event:**

#### **a. Day and Time:**

- i. Typically, a SATURDAY evening from 7:00pm - 9:30pm works best.

#### **b. Book it with Your Pastor:**

- i. The presence of a priest, particularly the pastor, is of the utmost importance. It is important for him to see the interaction and relationships of the married couples in his parish. Equally, it is important for couples to see the presence of a priest at such a function and see his support and encouragement in their marriages and community.
- ii. If your pastor and/or parochial vicar are unavailable for a date, then it is suggested that you choose another date.
- iii. Your pastor, assisting priests, deacons, and nuns should be invited free of charge for the evening.
- iv. Ask for the support of your pastor, assisting priests, and deacons in making announcements in the bulletins, at the end of mass, and throughout the parish. Their support will be important to you and to other couples in the parish.

#### **c. During Football Season:**

- i. Check LSU or other local favorite College Football schedule.
  1. It is highly recommended that a Supper & Substance not compete with nighttime televised games or home games.
- ii. Use Saturday nights.
  1. High School Football is normally played on Friday nights.

#### **d. Book Your Presenter(s):**

- i. In choosing your presenter:
  1. Speak with your core team members to choose the presenter for the evening together.
  2. Use the “Supper & Substance Speakers” list (see Appendix 1) for presenters or search your own parish for couples that are comfortable giving a personal witness to the parish.
  3. The “Substance” of a Supper & Substance: suggested guidelines for speaker Couple (see Appendix 2).
  4. Presenters will not be paid for their service, although you should offer them a gift at the end of the evening.

## II. Picking a Theme:

### a. Overview:

- i. Parishes all over the diocese have taken on the program of “Supper & Substance” with different approaches that have made the evening very successful. Planning your events with different styles each time throughout the year allows you to enjoy different atmospheres with your community and tap into different ages and personalities in your parish. While some couples prefer a classy candlelit dinner with music, others may really enjoy having a party with a Sock-Hop theme, colorful decorations and the opportunity to boogie! Be creative so that you can connect with all couples of every age in your parish. You may be surprised on how much fun you’ll have putting it all together and then reaping the benefits when the couples you least expect come out of their shell to mingle in the crowd!

### b. Deciding What’s Best for Your Parish:

- i. Consider ALL of the age ranges of couples in your parish.
- ii. Consider how united and communicative your parish is already.
- iii. Consider the budget and financial situation of your parish.

### c. 3 Example Lists of Themes to Choose From:

#### i. Elegant / Classy:

1. **“I Still Do”** - Champagne, roses, candles, romantic music, etc.
2. **“That’s AMORE”** - ITALIAN dinner, Italian music, dressy-casual, candles, etc. (See Appendix 3 for sample Program)
3. **SUBSTANCE SUPREME** - Have mass to kick off the night, include couples to read and bring up gifts, and then provide an elegant or themed dinner to follow.

#### ii. Simple / Low-Budget:

1. **Tailgating Party** - BBQ, jeans & favorite sports team shirt, keg of beer, etc.
2. **Cajun Style** - Crawfish boil, casual attire, newspaper over tabletops, Zydeco cds playing, ladies in parish bake pecan pies for dessert, etc.

#### iii. Costume / Dance:

1. **Fiesta!** - Mexican food, Mariachi band, sangria to drink, etc.
2. **Sock Hop** - Fifties attire, roller skating servers, karaoke, malts, dancing, etc.
3. **Costume Party** - Dress as famous couples, costume prizes, old movie reel décor, etc.
4. **LUAU**- Hula attire, HULA-hoop competition, beach décor and getaway prizes, etc.

### III. Consider Your Budget:

#### a. Overview:

- i. Every event planning needs a budget. The following lists of items should be considered. Remember that you may be able to get a large portion of these items donated. Solicitation is IMPORTANT. Do not view it as “begging for money,” but as a chance to get the whole community involved!

#### b. Dinner Expenses (unless donated):

##### i. Food:

1. Meal, dessert, salad, rolls and condiments

##### ii. Beverage:

1. Ice, soft drinks, iced tea, lemon, coffee, cream, sugar, sugar substitutes

2. Wine (beer is optional)

#### c. Supplies:

- i. Plates, salad bowls, and dessert plates

- ii. Coffee cups, drinking glasses, and wine glasses

- iii. Napkins, eating and serving utensils

- iv. Table linens

- v. Table Centerpieces & Decorations

- vi. Room Decorations

- vii. Name tags, markers & pens

- viii. Copies of flyers/registration forms and evaluation forms

- ix. Music (recording or live)

- x. \_\_\_\_\_

- xi. \_\_\_\_\_

- xii. \_\_\_\_\_

- xiii. \_\_\_\_\_

- xiv. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Chapter 3: Who Does What? / 2 Months In Advance**

### **I. Setting Up Your Committees:**

#### **a. Overview:**

- i. Now that you've chosen your date, your theme, and your presenter, it's time for your core team to split up into separate committees to "divide and conquer!" Use each couples gifts wisely. Look at each committee and decide which couples would work best with one another, would lead a group best, and would be best suited for which tasks (in terms of both their talents and their connections with various groups and vendors). This is a team effort and every facet of the team is important and every connection and input that the community as a whole can provide will be a successful factor. The committees are as follows:
  1. **Decorations & Set-up**
  2. **Catering / Solicitation / Other Fundraising**
  3. **Promotion & Tickets**
  4. **Volunteers/Servers Coordination**
  5. **Event Presentations & Gifts**
- ii. Keep in mind that the couples in your core team that choose to "chair" these committees will not need to do this alone. Now is the time to draw from other parish volunteers and recruit more help! Details of the committees' duties are as follows:

### **II. Duties and Responsibilities for Your Committees:**

#### **a. Decorations & Set-up Responsibilities:**

- i. First determine the capacity of the building that you'll be using and set the limit of couples to be invited (be sure to determine this with all other committees).
- ii. Determine the number of tables & chairs needed. There will need to be tables for the food & drinks, greeting/sign-in, the presentation area, the sound system, any gifts that might be used for door prizes, etc.
- iii. Decide and draw the layout for the evening. Have everything down to where the trashcans will be placed.
- iv. Decide table linens, centerpieces, wall décor, etc.
- v. Discuss (if applicable) extra activities during evening (karaoke for a sock-hop, prizes for costume contest, D.J. table, picture scene area for Christmas party, etc.).

- vi. Discuss with “Solicitation /Fundraising” Committee as to how much of your ideas could be donated from local vendors.
- vii. Create “programs” with a schedule for the evening, menu, and acknowledgments for all tables. (See Appendix 3 for sample Program)
- viii. Appropriate lighting for the evening.
- ix. Assign seating and tables.
  - 1. Group seating:
    - a. A traditional seating environment for a Supper & Substance is group seating. There are many reasons why this is a popular choice but one particular is the social opportunities with other couples. This is a great way for couples to meet people and get to know another couple better.
    - b. Something to be ready for:
      - i. Assigned seating: This will ensure that a couple is not left to a table alone.
        - 1. FYI: Some couples come thinking or wanting to sit with a friend or family member. You might want to ask on the registration form if they want to sit with another couples
  - 2. One-on-One seating
    - a. You might want to consider one couple per table. This might be a real treat for the couples as they may always be in a situation where they never have time to actually talk to each other without distractions from family or even friends.
    - b. Added Bonus: Come up with questions that spouses can ask each other during their dinner. Questions can range from something fun to something deep.
      - i. Fun Questions:
        - 1. What is your favorite color, food, place to visit, movie, song, book, memory, etc.
      - ii. In-depth Questions:
        - 1. What have you always wanted to do but did not? (Then have the spouse come up with a way to make that a reality in the near or distant future). What was something that your spouse has done for you that made you feel loved? What do you want for your spouse?
      - iii. Enrichment Questions:

1. What is God's plan for our marriage?  
What can we commit to do for our marriage that will make it stronger?
  - c. If you do decided upon this option, you might want to create a way in which couples would be able to interact during the night. Part of the fruit of a Supper & Substance is the fellowship with other married couples in the parish.
- b. Catering / Solicitation / Other Fundraising Responsibilities:
- i. Meet with Decoration committee to see what is needed other than food and beverages.
  - ii. Consider theme and solicit for food and drinks for the evening.
  - iii. To maintain a low cost for the evening, have, at most, beer and wine (white & red) on the menu.
  - iv. Call or use the "Sample Solicitation Letter" (see Appendix 4) to begin contacting local vendors. For quick ideas of vendors or supporters for the night, look on the back of the Church bulletin.
    1. You may use the format of the letter to cater to whomever you are asking assistance from.
    2. Try to involve parish members' restaurants and companies.
  - v. Generating money for the event.
    1. Put on a low budget fundraiser.
      - a. Spaghetti dinner after mass one Sunday (dine in or take out).
    2. Write a letter to parishioners, organization, or business who might be willing to sponsor all or part of the night.
- c. Promotion & Tickets Responsibilities:
- i. To promote your event and organize registration, create a catchy flyer with a registration form. Theme should be apparent. (See sample flyers/forms in Appendix 5 and 6)
  - ii. Take registration at "Parish Presentation Sunday." (See Chapter 4)
  - iii. Contact couples to confirm registration.
  - iv. Refunds may be available to couples needing to cancel BEFORE the event, but not AFTER the fact.

- v. Responsible for setting up speakers for masses four weeks before event. (See Chapter 5)
- d. Volunteer / Server Coordination Responsibilities:
- i. Contact a list of student volunteers (from parish youth group, confirmation group, local school, etc.) to help out with the Supper and Substance before, during, or after the event. Many students need service hours because of certain programs they are involved in.
  - ii. Contact additional volunteers (if needed) for set-up and/or clean up.
  - iii. Organize and communicate in advance the attire for volunteers during the event. If the evening were classy, a more formal look would be appropriate. But if the evening were themed to the fifties, then the attire would continue the atmosphere.
  - iv. Have volunteers pass out evaluation forms sometime after the presenters have presented. (See sample evaluation in Appendix 7)
  - v. Sign service hour letters for student volunteers. (See sample Letter in the Appendix 8)
- e. Event Presentations & Gifts Responsibilities:
- i. Purchase special gift or have something donated for speaker(s).
  - ii. Solicit local restaurants, hotels, and other vendors for gift certificates, etc., for door prizes.
  - iii. Decide who will present the gifts to the speakers.
  - iv. If you have door prizes, decide how they will be awarded and who will present them to the winner. Numbered tickets seem to work well here.

## **Chapter 4: Announcements! Announcements! / 1 Month in Advance**

### **I. Presentation to Parish / Advertisement**

#### a. Overview:

- i. Now you're ready to advertise for you're event. This should begin one month before the big night! This will give people enough notice without being told so far in advance that they might forget. You will need to be in contact with your pastor and priests as to how you will carry out the following steps of this process.

- b. Flyers are ready:
  - i. See Appendix 4 and 5 for Sample Flyer Registration Form
- c. PRESENTATION SUNDAY: 4 Weeks Before Event
  - i. Select couples to give a brief pulpit presentation at the end of EVERY mass. (See Appendix 9 for a sample Pulpit Presentation)
  - ii. Ask that your pastor/priest to reinforce the program and put in a good word to the congregation at the end of mass.
  - iii. Have registration tables at every entrance/exit of the church with, AT THE VERY LEAST, 2 people present (1 person to pass out flyers, 1 person to take registrations).
  - iv. Couples may only reserve when they have paid.
  - v. It is always good to give a sense of urgency to “Act Now!” on reservations.
- d. BULGING BULLETIN SUNDAY: 3 Weeks Before Event
  - i. Ensure that EVERY bulletin has a flyer/registration form in it.
  - ii. Have Supper and Substance representatives present to pass out bulletins.
  - iii. Remind the pastor and other priests to continue to put in a good word to the congregation at the end of masses from now until the event.
- e. CALL THE PRESS:
  - i. Have someone in the committee take pictures of the event to use for in-house promotions and to send to Willwoods Community to possibly post in *Pathways* and on the Website.
  - ii. Call any local newspapers and tell them what you are doing and invite them to the event to take pictures.
  - iii. You could also use the paper as a form of advertisement for your event.

## **Chapter 5: LET’S GET TOGETHER! / 2 WEEKS IN ADVANCE...**

### **I. ALL COMMITTEES MEET AS A TEAM:**

- a. Overview:
  - i. This is a great opportunity for all the members of the core team to get together again and recollect their thoughts and get up-to-speed as to what’s going on with the rest of the group and make sure everyone is on the same page! The overall chair of the Supper and Substance Core Team should run this meeting.

- b. Action Items for the Meeting:
  - i. Make sure all committee chair people are present ready to take notes.
  - ii. Each committee shares what they have done so far.
  - iii. Each committee shares what is left on their “to-do list.”
  - iv. Now’s the time to ask for help from and offer help to other committees.
  - v. Assign someone to contact and confirm the presenter(s).
  - vi. Discuss the schedule, layout of the area, and all the ins-and-outs for the event and what needs to happen after the event. Make sure all members understand when and where they need to be and for how long.
  - vii. Make sure you have a CLEAN UP CREW for the night. In many parishes, core members were all required to stay for clean up. Whatever is decided, just make sure that it is understood BEFORE HAND.

## **Chapter 6: THE MAIN EVENT/ DAY AND NIGHT OF...**

### **I. The Main Event**

- a. Overview:
  - i. The moment everyone has all been waiting for is just hours away. So what to we do now? Here’s a step by step glance as to how your day and night should run leading up to the main event and during the dinner.
- b. Leading Up to the Event:
  - i. Decoration/Set-up Committee and other Volunteers:
    - 1. Set up during the day.
    - 2. It’s best to set up as early as possible in the morning, so that if you run into problems, you have time to correct it.
  - ii. Catering Committee:
    - 1. Makes sure all is in place. (Do not forget the corkscrew. 😊)
  - iii. Volunteer/Server Coordination Committee:

1. They should make sure volunteers are on the job, dressed, and knowledgeable to the schedule of the evening and where to go if there is a problem.
  2. Volunteers should be assigned to tables and duties to organize traffic and confusion.
- iv. Chairman and Core Team Members:
1. Should arrive an hour before to greet the presenter and prepare to greet guests as they arrive.
- c. During the Dinner:
- i. Guests are greeted at door with table assignments and name tags.
  - ii. Wine and beer table is open as guests arrive.
  - iii. Volunteers serve guests. (Committee members can now enjoy their meal!)
  - iv. Keep on the look out for straggler couples; **make sure no couples are alone.**
    1. *That's why assigning tables is so necessary, making sure that not only tables are not overcrowded, but that no couple sits alone.*
  - v. **Presentation during dessert:**
    1. Chairman or other core team member introduces the presenting couple.
  - vi. After presentation, thank them and present to them their gift.
  - vii. Announce door prizes, upcoming Willwoods Married Couples Retreat (you may go on line for a list of dates for the next retreat) & your future Supper and Substance (if booked yet).
  - viii. Have volunteers pass out evaluations and thank guests for coming and ask to fill out evaluations on tables.
- f. The End of the Night:
- i. "Clean up crew" stays to clean.
  - ii. Be sure to return all borrowed items.
  - iii. Sign service hour sheets for volunteer students (if necessary).

## **Chapter 7: WRAPPING IT UP / AFTER THE EVENT**

### ***I.* Days After the Event:**

- a. “Thanks be to God!”
  - i. Give God and everyone who was involved a big high five, your night was, no doubt, a success.
- b. Keep us in touch:
  - i. Now, for the sake of the Willwoods Community, we’d like to stay in touch and hear about the “ins and outs” of your night. Please take a few minutes to do the following and send it to:

**Willwoods Faith and Marriage office**  
**3330 North Causeway Blvd.**  
**Suite 345**  
**Metairie, La 70002**

### ***II.* Summarize it for Us:**

- a. Write a brief summary of your evening, detailing the theme, location, décor, presenters, and overall feel of the evening.
- b. Make a list of guests and their addresses. (Keep this list for you as well to mail out future Supper and Substance events.)
- c. Send 1-2 pictures of your evening to possibly be used in a future *Pathways* newsletter or on the Supper and Substance webpage.

### ***III.* Re-Evaluate:**

- a. Read over evaluations and make notes in a Supper & Substance notebook for major pros and cons to keep in mind for future events.
- b. Send an evaluation to core team members and ask for their input on the organizing and planning pros and cons.
- c. Keep in mind that, merely gathering parishioners together for the evening for conversation alone is priceless and should be considered a success and a feat to thankful of. Praise God!

## **Chapter 8: Key Points to a Successful Supper & Substance**

### **I. Pray**

- a. Put it in the intentions at mass and be sure to include it again after the event has been done to give thanks to God.
- b. Cover the parish, presenters, couples, and even your team in constant prayer leading up to and after this great event.

### **II. Non-Threatening**

- a. In many marriages, one spouse (often the husband), is:
  - i. Apathetic toward marriage enrichment activities.
  - ii. Scared to death that they will be asked to “share” with other couples.
  - iii. Concerned they will be recruited for some marriage enrichment function that they don’t want to attend.
- b. Therefore, try and maintain a very non-threatening environment in order to attract and maintain these couples.

### **III. Substance:**

- a. Select the Presenting Couple carefully.
- b. The presentation/talk should:
  - i. Be a PERSONAL sharing with RELATABLE experiences.
  - ii. NOT be ABRASIVE or Condemning.
  - iii. Be a positive and relatable presentation on the joys and struggles of the vocation of marriage.

### **IV. Romantic and/ or Uplifting atmosphere:**

- a. The ambiance created with decorations, music, and dimmed lighting is the little things that really make the evening special.
- b. It DOES NOT require a FANCY MEAL, PLUSH FACILITY, or EXPENSIVE DECORATION. Your creativity and personal touch means most to these couples to make this evening different from the rest.

### **V. The Committee:**

- a. 8-12 couples divide the workload of chairing committees without over burdening one couple.
- b. Choosing dedicated people makes ALL the difference.

### **VI. Price & Budget:**

- a. Maintaining a modest price. Makes this an affordable & attractive date for even the poorest couples in our parish.
- b. It’s important to try your hardest to stay within a reasonable budget. If you feel you don’t have the budget to work with, start SIMPLE. And start asking your community vendors to help. It can be done!

## **Appendix: Samples and Extras**

*\*The following samples are yours for the taking and the copying!  
Enjoy!*

## ***Appendix 1: Supper & Substance Speakers***

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*You can find bios on our  
website in the link to our  
"speaker couples & bios"*

*If you or someone you  
know is interested in being  
part of our Couple Speaker  
team, please contact us at  
(504) 830.3716.*

## ***Appendix 2: The “Substance” of a Supper & Substance:***

The “substance” is a simple witness given by a married couple. The purpose of this presentation is to gain wisdom and knowledge on the sacrament of matrimony through the couples lived experience. The presentation normally is around 30-35 minutes and occurs during dessert. The goal of the presentation is to draw couples closer to each other – closer to God.

### **The presentation should be *accessible*:**

Unfortunately today, many couples are un-catechized. A great witness and moving story can fall on a poor foundation or rocky soil. Your talk can be a simple way of introducing the amazing life giving truth that brings life and freedom.

Providing a real witness of your own marriage, both struggles and joys, personal anecdotes, painful experiences and humor will help to make your story and your message accessible and engaging.

Be careful not to assume that the couples grew up Catholic (or that all are Catholic) and are familiar with the saints, rituals, prayers, and even definitions of words (e.g. novena, liturgy, etc.). Our mission then is not to hide or water-down but rather to reveal and breakdown this amazing truth.

### **The talk should not be just motivating but also *enriching*:**

We need to provide substance for these couples to chew on. While at times it might be baby food, nonetheless, it is something that will nourish them and help them to understand the “why” behind the “what.”

To address this need, all of us need to go deeper in our own understanding of the truth. We must allow Christ even more into our hearts and into our minds. This requires us to love more and know more of the calling and relationship that we have in Christ.

### **Know your audience:**

More than likely, you will have a group of diverse couples. One couple may be celebrating their 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary and another couple may be celebrating their 42<sup>nd</sup>. There may be couples that have just started their adventure in parenting, couples that have many sons and daughters - who maybe grown and have children of their own, and then there may be couples that have been married for many years but for some reason are unable to have children.

The key point here is to stay focused on speaking about the couple and their marriage, i.e. their relationship with God and each other. Once this is firmly established, and then you may want to speak about children and how they play a beautiful role in our call to holiness as spouses.

### **Two spouses, one talk:**

When speaking as a couple, a very important aspect of the talk is to make sure that you are both giving one talk, versus two different talks. This is worked out through God’s grace, a lot of prayer and teamwork.

It would be wise to ask friends, family, and your pastor to assist you in prayer. This will help guide you and protect you as the two of you prepare the talk. Also, have those who will be in attendance covered in prayer. How comforting it will be to know that when you walk into the room to give the presentation everyone including the presenters have all been lifted up many times in prayer.

*Appendix 3: Sample Event Program:*

# *That's Amore*

*St. Somebody's Supper & Substance*

*August 18, 2008*

**7pm-**

*Wine/Social*

**7:45-**

**Supper**

**Dinner Menu:**

*Italian Salad, Lasagna, and Garlic Bread*

**Dessert Menu:**

**Coffee & Spumoni**

**8:30**

**Substance (Presentation)**

**John and Jane Doe**

**of the N.O. Archdiocese**

**9:15**

**Closing Prayer**

***BRAVO! To Italiana Café for a delicious meal!***

**Many thanks to the following vendors for their generosity:**

*Little Italy Florist*

*The St. Somebody Youth Group*

*Spumoni, Incl.*

*Sav-A-Center*

## ***Appendix 4: Example Solicitation Letter***

*Dear Sir or Madam,*

*This letter is to introduce our Supper and Substance Program at (name of your parish) to you and ask for your assistance. Supper and Substance Dinners were initiated in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and carried on through the Willwoods Community to offer a night of enrichment for married couples. They're able to share a meal with other couples and be entertained by an inspiring presentation on married life. It's a wonderful opportunity for ministering to married couples.*

*We are planning our next Supper and Substance event on Saturday, (date) at which we expect a large number of couples from our parish to attend. We are writing this letter to you today in hopes that your florist would be able to donate some arrangements for our table settings and help set the tone for the evening. All donations are prominently acknowledged in our program and during our Supper and Substance Dinners. Our theme will be (insert your theme) and we feel the lovely arrangements that you create would be the finishing touch for our event.*

*Any assistance that you could give us would be greatly appreciated. You come highly recommended and praised by your community, giving us an even greater reason to want to get you involved. Thank you for time.*

*Sincerely Yours,*

*Jane Doe  
Chairman, Supper and Substance Committee*

**Appendix 5: Sample Flyer/Registration Form**

*Love in Bloom*

*Join us for a special celebration of holy matrimony*

*Saturday, March 27th*

*Mass: 6:30 pm St. Anselm Church*

*Archbishop Alfred Hughes, presider and homilist*

*Dinner: 7:30 pm St. Joseph Hall*

*Speakers for the evening: Charlene and Marlon Rovira*

*Catering by: Louisiana Grill \$25.00 per couple*

*Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Address:* \_\_\_\_\_

*City/Zip/Phone:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Presented by St. Anselm's Supper and Substance Committee*

**Appendix 6: Sample Flyer/Registration Form**

# St. Anselm Bandstand!!

We're goin' hoppin',  
We're goin' hoppin' today,  
Where things are poppin',  
In the St. Anselm Way,  
We're gonna drop in,  
On all the music they play,  
On the Bandstand (Bandstand!)



Join us on Friday, the 12th of November  
for a hoppin' good time!

We'll be dancin' and singin' and eatin' and drinkin'  
from 7:00 - 11:00 pm in St. Joseph Hall.

Enjoy a D.J. playing tunes from the 50's & 60's  
and a karaoke contest with cash prizes!

Come dressed in your favorite outfit from the  
Bandstand era!

\$25.00 per couple

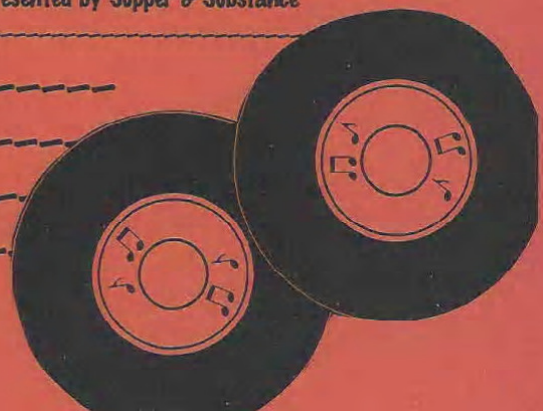
Presented by Supper & Substance

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_



## ***Appendix 7: Supper and Substance Evaluation Form***

***Please take a few minutes to evaluate our Supper and Substance dinner. Your comments will help us in planning future programs.***

***Thank you for your interest.***

*Please circle your answer.*

**1. How would you rate the meal?    Excellent    good    fair    poor**

**2. Do you feel it was a good value? Excellent    good    fair    poor**

**3. How would you rate the atmosphere we tried to create?**

**Excellent    good    fair    poor**

**4. How would you rate the speakers/subject matter?**

**Excellent    good    fair    poor**

**5. Would you attend another Supper and Substance?    Yes    No**

**6. Is there anything you would like to suggest that we could change or add to our next Supper and Substance event?**

**7. Any other comments you would wish to make?**

***Appendix 8: Service Hour Form for Student Volunteers***

*To Whom It May Concern,*

----- *worked at our parish  
Supper and Substance dinner this evening  
from 6pm to 10pm helping with the set-up,  
service and clean up for our event.*

*Four hours were performed. Thank you for  
this opportunity.*

*God bless,*

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## *Appendix 9: Sample Pulpit Presentation*

“Good morning. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and this is my husband/wife \_\_\_\_\_. We are members of the Supper and Substance Committee here at St. *Somebody’s* parish and we are very excited to be here today to tell you about our upcoming event, on Saturday (date) at 7pm. The theme of the evening is “*That’s Amore*”. It will be an evening of good Italian cooking with love in the air! All married couples will have the opportunity to spend an evening out and dine, sip wine, and enjoy a lovely dinner catered by *Italiana Café*.

All in all, it will be an evening that you DO NOT want to miss! Supper and Substance Dinners are a wonderful way to meet other couples from our parish community, share a fun evening with your spouse, and enrich your marriage by listening to our speakers for the evening, *Jane and John Doe*.

After mass today, we will be at each of the entrances to distribute invitations. We have limited seating and these spaces will fill up quickly, so we suggest turning in your registration forms early. The cost is \$30 per couple, which includes dinner, wine and beer, music, and presentation. (Now that’s what we call a cheap date! ☺) So mark your calendars, get a babysitter – if you need one and plan on joining us for this lovely night. We look forward to seeing you!”