



February 1, 2009

SUBJECT: FOCCUS Alert: Changes for Scoring the Inventory

Dear Pastor or Parish FOCCUS Coordinator,

FOCCUS, Inc., USA recently announced some significant changes to the way FOCCUS inventories are to be scored. They are shifting the scoring method to an online inventory in an effort to update the process and take advantage of today's technology. Though this may pose a challenge for some, the changes should strengthen the FOCCUS tool and make it all the more effective for the engaged couple.

The purpose of this letter is to alert you to the upcoming changes and briefly explain them. **FOCCUS, Inc. is discontinuing two scoring methods; the Hand Scoring and the FOCCUS PC scoring software.**

So what are we to do now? FOCCUS, Inc., USA is now offering the following three scoring methods:

| New Scoring Methods | Description |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Online Scoring Service</p> | <p>FOCCUS, Inc., USA has revised their website to include an online scoring service that allows engaged couples to take the inventory online and facilitating couples to print a comprehensive summary of their results. The cost through FOCCUS, Inc. is \$15 per couple. Discounts are available for bulk purchase through FOCCUS.</p> |
| <p>2. Online Quick Scoring</p> | <p>For couples without computer access, parish staffs can take the hand-written answer forms and input them into the online service themselves. The same summary report is available. The cost through FOCCUS, Inc., USA is \$15 per couple. Discounts are available for bulk purchase through FOCCUS.</p> |
| <p>3. Mail-in Scoring Service</p> | <p>If you or the engaged couple are unable to take advantage of the Online Scoring Service, answer sheets can be mailed to FOCCUS, Inc., USA and they will score and return two weeks from receipt. The cost of this service is \$20.</p> <p>Three methods of payment are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$20.00 payment with each set of answer sheets • Semi-annual billing (June and December) • Pre-paid scoring certificates available from FOCCUS |

All three of the above scoring methods are now available directly at www.foccusinc.com. This will streamline the process of obtaining materials since now you will be dealing directly with FOCCUS, Inc., USA.

It appears that FOCCUS, Inc., USA is trying to tackle two fundamental problems with these changes.

First, the FOCCUS Inventory tool goes through periodic revision based on the changing needs and habits of the engaged couples. Hardcopy inventories and the static PC Disk software do not allow for easy updating. It is possible that FOCCUS users across the country are using old and outdated versions of the inventory.

Second, online technology provides great advantages for data compilation: results can be easily tabulated and used to refine the tool and versions can be updated and provided automatically. With the dramatic increase of Internet use over the past decade, the majority of couples are not only comfortable with online technology, they prefer it.

We will be providing training in 2009 throughout the Archdiocese that will explain the changes in detail for you and your FOCCUS facilitators. Please see the attached flyer with dates, times and locations.

The FOCCUS Inventory has been an effective component of the Archdiocese's marriage preparation program for many years. We anticipate that the changes will make the tool even more effective and user-friendly for you and the engaged couples. Thank you in advance for your patience through the upcoming year of change, but especially for all you do to support marriage in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Please don't hesitate to contact us or contact FOCCUS directly at 877-883-5422 or visit their website (www.foccusinc.com) for more information.

Sincerely,

Lydia LoCoco
Director
The Nazareth Project
lcococl@archmil.org
414-758-2214

Jenni Oliva
Associate Director
The Nazareth Project
olivaj@archmil.org
414-758-2213