



JOHN PAUL II HEALING CENTER

*Transformation in the Heart of the Church*

## **Unveiled: Becoming One**

### **Appleton, WI**

### **September 25-26, 2015**

We were greeted by gorgeous September weather and the warm hospitality from our hosts at St. Pius X Catholic Church, as we traveled to Appleton, Wisconsin for an Unveiled: Becoming One marriage conference. About 60 Couples from all over Wisconsin and as far away as Alabama, Colorado, and Texas were in attendance. The couples represented a broad spectrum of marital longevity, from engaged and newly married couples to those married almost 60 years. Among the couples were those who considered themselves to be happily married, and others seriously contemplating divorce. Once again, it was amazing to see the Holy Spirit reach each couple personally. At the end of the conference, two couples shared how they had major breakthroughs that saved their marriage.

Friday night, after introductions and reflection activities, Bob opened with a talk on The Great Mystery, exploring how every couple's wedding vows express Christ's love for the Church. Following the teaching, an engaged couple volunteered to participate in a demonstration of how all 7 sacraments are revealed in the Sacrament of Marriage. Imagining the auditorium as the setting of a church sanctuary, the husband-to-be took his place at the front of the altar. His excitement and nervousness were visible as he gazed down the make-shift aisle at his soon to be bride. The environment was ripe with anticipation, for what soon would become a reality in this couples relationship. The love, excitement and enthusiasm of the engaged couple added much to the demonstration.



On Saturday morning Bob led the couples through an applied teaching on Becoming One, highlighting the five kinds of unity in marriage, and inviting the couples to pray together, and share joy stories. The session concluded with exercises to foster teamwork and companionship. Couples were also invited to explore the “State of their Union”, by discussing how they personally experience the five areas of unity in their marriage. During the lunch break, many went to confession, and a number of couples also spent time outside, sharing and enjoying the sunshine and refreshing breeze.

The third and final talk, Deeper Passion and Intimacy, was particularly stirring for many couples. Most of the couples were deeply grateful to hear how intimacy, prayer, and mutual honor are crucial elements to their mutual satisfaction in this most sacred area of marriage.

Here are a few of the comments from the couples who attended:

*“I’ve never experienced such an intimate teaching in the area of sexuality.”*

*“The talk on Deeper Passion and Intimacy has really challenged us to go deeper in our marriage.”*

*“Every married couple needs to experience this weekend. Life changing.”*

*“This retreat should be part of the marriage prep requirement! Awesome!”*

We are thankful to the large and committed group who helped promote and support this event. Individuals from several different parishes gave deeply of themselves to make the event a resounding success. As always, we are appreciative of our benefactors who help to make the work of the ministry possible, and all of you, who continue to pray for JP11 Healing Center.

May God bless each and every one of you!

JP11 Healing Center Team