

OUR LADY OF
LOURDES
Catholic Parish

1621 Boykin Blvd. Mobile, AL 36605



Introduces A New Ministry Coping with Divorce

HEALING HEART, MIND AND SPIRIT

*MAY YOU HAVE TRUE FRIENDS TO STAND BY YOU,
BOTH IN JOY AND IN SORROW.
—RITE OF MARRIAGE, (1) NO. 37*

Many Catholics in the United States hear this simple but powerful prayer at the conclusion of a Catholic wedding ceremony. As part of the final blessing bestowed upon the couple, it captures well the Church's fervent prayer for both husband and wife as they begin their new life together. It expresses the hope of the entire Christian community that care, concern, and support will be present to them during their most joyful and most sorrowful times.

Newly married couples begin life together in anticipation that their marriages will last. What they desire deeply within their hearts on their wedding day conforms to God's deepest desire for them. If a marital relationship subsequently ruptures—for any one of myriad reasons, and despite all attempts to remedy their situation—couples can find themselves in very uncertain and sometimes fearful circumstances.

Persons who experience marital discord will naturally turn to the comfort of family and friends for initial support. As a family of faith, moreover, the entire Christian community—made present to the couple on their wedding day—is exhorted to accompany those who suffer from an irremediable marriage situation.

Pope John Paul II was an especially strong proponent of the Church's responsibility in this regard. Referring to persons who are separated or divorced but not remarried civilly, he stated [that] "The ecclesial community must support such people more than ever. It must give them much respect, solidarity, understanding and practical help".

Here at Our Lady of Lourdes we want to do just that by offering a small group setting for those who have gone through or are going through a divorce. The group will be facilitated by Dr. Elise Labbé-Coldsmith, retired chair of the University of South Alabama department of psychology. Dr. Labbé-Coldsmith earned the following degrees: Bachelor, Loyola University, 1978. Master of Arts, Louisiana State University, 1980. Doctor of Philosophy, Louisiana State University, 1983. With more than three decades of experience in counseling, Dr. Labbé-Coldsmith will bring a wealth of knowledge into the group sessions, and with her lifetime of devotion to the Catholic Faith she will offer a spiritual connection. Dr. Labbé-Coldsmith is an active parishioner at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish.

THE GROUP SESSION

Each session will integrate participants' areas of concern and spirituality. Topics to be discussed will be generated in the first session and others may arise as the group progresses.

OBJECTIVE

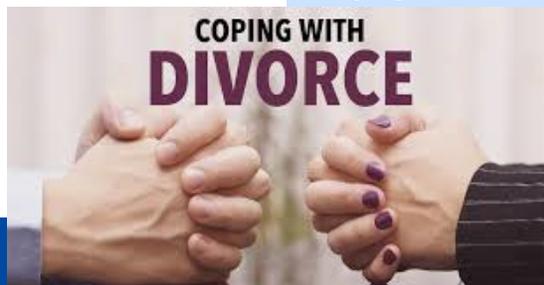
For participants to learn how to enhance their relationship with God to help them cope with their divorce. Participants will learn specific coping techniques and skills that can also help them cope with the stress of divorce.



Dr. Elise Labbé-Coldsmith

GROUP INFORMATION

- The First Session will be October 15
- The Small Group will meet for 8 weeks
- Session Time is Immediately following the 5:30 Mass on Tuesday's
- Group size is 6-8 participants
- The group is open to parishioners from ALL parishes
- There is NO charge for the group sessions



For More Information call the Church Office at
251-479-9885
or email ollparish@att.net