

# **Kenneth Cramer, MA, MA**

## **Director of Family and Respect Life**

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### **PRESENTATION TITLE:**

In the Likeness of God: Nurturing God's Image in Marriage

### **LENGTH:**

60 minutes

### **OBJECTIVE:**

To explore the profound connection between God's image within us and its impact on cultivating a healthy and fulfilling marriage.

### **BIG IDEA:**

In my former career as a Catholic marriage therapist, I came to find that each of my clients was suffering from the same root problems. This root problem turned out to be linked to the ways we are made in the image and likeness of God. This presentation shows that cultivating the virtues necessary for a healthy marriage conform to the way we are made in the image of God, leading us to a greater unity within ourselves and our marriages.

### **MAJOR POINTS COVERED:**

1. Learning to see our spouses and ourselves as Christ sees us.
2. The three ways we are made in the image and likeness of God.
3. How to cultivate and increase our capacity for self-knowledge.
4. How to cultivate and increase our capacity for self-possession.
5. How to cultivate and increase our capacity for self-gift.
6. The importance of marital unity and what that has to do with God's plan.
7. Ways to increase marital satisfaction by conforming to the image of God within us.

### **REFERENCES OTHER THAN SCRIPTURE and CATECHISM:**

Msgr. Luigi Giussani, Black Elk Speaks, Sts. Thomas Aquinas, Teresa of Ávila, Thérèse of Lisieux, Benedict XVI, and the life of Vince Lombardi.