

Damon Clarke Owens



Damon Owens, international speaker and evangelist, is executive director of *Joyful Ever After* (joyfuleverafter.org). The first executive director of the *Theology of the Body Institute* and chairman of the 2016 International Theology of the Body Congress, Damon founded *Joyful Ever After* as a non-profit ministry dedicated to encouraging and educating couples to understand and live marriage and family life *together with joy* through St. John Paul II's Theology of the Body.

Host of the 2020 Catholic Marriage Summit, presenter at the 2019 *Catholic Family Life Symposium*, 2017 *USCCB Convocation of Catholic Leaders*, and 2015 *World Meeting of Families*, Damon keeps a full international speaking

schedule at conferences, seminars, universities, high schools, seminaries, and parishes on the good news of marriage, sexuality, *Theology of the Body*, *Theology of the Family*, adoption, and NFP. In 2018, Pope Francis honored Damon with his *Benemerenti Papal Medal* in recognition for his work in support of marriage and family. Damon and his wife Melanie have eight children and live outside Philadelphia.

He previously founded *Joy-Filled Marriage New Jersey* and *New Jersey Natural Family Planning Association*, served as Natural Family Planning Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Newark, and taught NFP for 14 years with his wife Melanie.

In 2011, Damon served as Executive Director of *The Children First Foundation*, the official NY/NJ/CT sponsors of the *Choose Life License Plates* dedicated to promoting adoption by raising support for women who choose life and adoption for their crisis pregnancies.

Damon has served as the NJ Director for the *National Organization for Marriage* promoting on the true meaning of marriage, its irreplaceable role in keeping a just society, and the public harms of its redefinition. In addition, he has served as National Spokesman for *L.E.A.R.N.* (*Life, Education, and Resource Network*) – the national network of independent African-American pro-life organizations. For over twenty years, he has been calling attention to the disproportionate effect of anti-family and anti-life issues on the black community.

He was raised with his two sisters in NJ where, among his academic and athletic honors, he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Brown University in 1988 and an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California at Berkeley in 1990. Following 13 years as manager with a major technology firm, he founded a technology startup in 2001 before moving full-time in support of marriage and the family.

Damon has published numerous articles, appeared on many radio and television programs (*EWTN*, *Catholic Answers*, *Ave Maria*, *Relevant Radio*, *Immaculate Heart Radio*, *ABC World News Tonight*, *CBS News*, *NPR*), taught in many major Catholic faith programs, and has hosted and produced three 13-part television series for EWTN. He is also an accomplished gospel singer honored with a solo during the 1995 NJ Papal Mass at Giants Stadium presided by Pope St. John Paul II.

The family, this is the place where the theology of the body and the theology of love are interwoven. – Pope Benedict XVI