



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

November 27, 2018

Prot. N. 2018-0747 A

Dear Father,

I am writing to let you know about Witness to Love, a marriage preparation and enrichment apostolate that will be holding two information sessions in the archdiocese this coming January 23rd and 24th, followed by a more in-depth March 23-24 formation weekend for parish formators, clergy and interested couples.

Witness to Love was founded in 2012 by Ryan and Mary-Rose Verret, who noticed that newly married couples were missing in many Catholic parishes. The Verrets began a seven-year process of interviewing over 400 engaged couples through their work at their diocese and later at their parish. During these hundreds of interviews, they realized that even the best marriage conferences, natural family planning classes, and their own parish's extensive marriage prep course — which included marriage catechesis and mentor couples selected by the pastor — were not sufficient for success.

The Verrets discovered that what was needed was an authentic connection to parish life through the engaged couple's choice of a mentor couple whom they knew and admired. Trust and existing relationships were missing in the standard marriage-prep mentor format. In creating Witness to Love they made a program that speaks to the everyday struggles and joys of newlyweds, while giving them parish lifelines of connection that last beyond their wedding day.

Witness to Love has had great success in renewing parishes by forming missionary disciples whose impact is being felt in 75 dioceses across the United States and Canada. It does this using a catechumenate model that sees marriage as the touch-point for evangelization, both for engaged couples and the mentors that they choose.

The January information sessions will be an ideal introduction to the Witness to Love model, and I encourage you and your staff to attend them if possible. Please contact our NFP and Marriage specialist Carrie Keating at 303-715-3259 or carrie.keating@archden.org.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila, S.T.L.
Archbishop of Denver