

“... deeper parish connection and authentic accompaniment for engaged and newly married couples.”

– Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond

What is Witness to Love?

Witness to Love is not just another marriage prep program. It is a renewal movement and an ethos centered around fostering community involvement in the marriage preparation process that bears fruit for the entire parish community. It is a unique virtue-based system of marriage renewal and preparation that:

1. Prepares engaged couples for a sacramental marriage, **AND...**
2. Fosters their transition into a welcoming community of faith before and after they are married.



We integrate evidence-based principles of psychology to help couples facilitate an authentic dialogue about their relationship, and provide a connection to their local parish through mentors that lasts well beyond their time of marriage preparation.

What makes Witness to Love different?

Our approach focuses on developing key relationships in order to fully integrate engaged and newly married couples into their own parish. The Priest/Deacon, the Marriage Prep Coordinator/Coaches, and a Mentor/Sponsor Couple act together as a team, fully utilizing their specific gifts and roles to prepare the engaged couple for marriage and welcome them into the parish family. Our workbook, mentor's hand-book, video series, and trainings are powerful tools deliberately designed to help facilitate this renewal. *Witness to Love* is now available in Spanish. View all available resources and training options at witnessstolove.org.

Why is the Witness to Love Mentor Model so Effective?

A unique differentiator of *Witness to Love* is that engaged couples are invited to discern qualified mentors that they usually already know and trust (and which meet basic requirements). Deep conversions, encounter with Christ, and renewal happen consistently for both the mentors and the engaged couples. This is a two for one evangelization model.

By allowing the engaged couple to choose their own mentor couple, a concrete connection and integration into the parish is developed. Through the sharing of the mentor couples' own marriage journey, the engaged couple inherits a "lifeline" of support in their commitment to Christ and the Church. The mentors are not tasked with teaching moral or sacramental theology, but serve as powerful witnesses and guides, all the while growing in their own marriage through the development of virtue. *Witness to Love* enables the parish to build on this relationship to help rebuild trust between the engaged couple and the Church.

Does it work?

Yes! *Witness to Love* has been proven to be very effective in preparing couples for marriage and successfully integrating them into their parish. Newly married couples still attend Mass and are active in their parish years after their wedding day. A recent case study found that the full implementation of *Witness to Love* at a parish (averaging 17 marriages/year) in 2012 took the divorce rate from 23% to 0% each year over the last four years.

Is it an "approved" program?

Yes. *Witness to Love* is listed on the USCCB's site "For your Marriage" as a complete marriage preparation resource. In addition, Archbishop Gregory Aymond, Secretary of USCCB, serves as the ecclesial advisor for our non-profit renewal ministry. We are currently working with over 60 Dioceses in various capacities.

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How does it work?

Witness to Love provides a rich and lasting formation and accompaniment for engaged and newly married couples through an 8-step process:



What are people saying?

"... holds out great promise for strengthening marriage and family life in our parishes."

-Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone

"It's a win-win for engaged couples and their chosen mentors."

-Peg Hensler, Diocese of Trenton

"... we definitely grew as a couple, not only closer to each other, but closer to God and the church."

-Jeremy & Lindsay, engaged couple

"... a powerful tool for sacramental marriage formation."

-Fr. Dean Wilhelm, Round Rock TX