

Witness to Love Marriage Movement Launching a Special Date Night Series for Military Couples

Marriage movement seeks to support military couples with a series to help them grow in their relationship, their family and community life, and their faith and prayer life. Launches on Veterans Day 2021 but remains available on demand in the Witness to Love App.

Lafayette, LA, November 4th, 2021– Witness to Love has been serving parishes and couples for over ten years, using an innovative virtues-based and mentor-led approach to marriage preparation. Their unique model forms evangelizing spouses that accompany couples before and after the wedding, so that newlyweds have a connection to their parish, and to Christ and His Church. If part of the Witness to Love mission is to invite couples into the life of the parish after the wedding day, then couples must have something to come back for!

With this in mind, and in response to the needs of many couples during the lockdown, Witness to Love developed its Be Light Virtual Date Night Series to help parishes keep their couples engaged and hopeful during this time of uncertainty. Real-life Catholic couples passionate about marriage and their faith partnered with Witness to Love to share their stories and the response was overwhelmingly positive! Close to 4,000 couples joined from across 24 countries. The Be Light series has now expanded to be a [5-Year marriage enrichment tool](#) for parishes to build small communities.

With the encouragement and collaboration of marriage leaders from around the country, Witness to Love has continued to support couples with date night series for special groups. After developing one for first responders and hospital workers in 2020, Witness to Love will be launching its newest [Virtual Date Night Series for Military Couples](#) on November 11, in honor of Veteran's Day, and will remain available on demand in the Witness to Love App. This date night series will encourage military couples as they face unique challenges in their marriage and family life. According to Daniela Mazzone, the ministry's VP for Content, "because of the sacrificial nature of their lives, military couples have a unique perspective on suffering, endurance, and hope. This date night series seeks to affirm those special gifts, and help strengthen military couples and families that are struggling to see the light at the end of the tunnel, especially during our current crisis."

The Military Date Night Series will feature the powerful witness of three military couples on the topics of interpersonal relationship, family and community, and prayer and faith. The Virnigs share honest yet hope-filled insight into what it means to be a military family separated during deployments. John Virnig (USAF) recalls, "I remember distinctly coming to Mass missing Lea-Ann and missing my family, and realizing that at some times I was going to Mass and receiving the Eucharist at the same time that my family was receiving the Eucharist elsewhere, and in those moments we were more united than we would have been even if we had been together in person."

Fr. Michael Murphy, is the pastor at Sacred Heart in Coronado, CA, home of a large military community. Reflecting on the Holy Family as a model for military families, he shares, “One thing is clear, there is a lot of sacrificial love at the heart of the Holy Family, and it needs to be that way in every family, but in particular in military families this has to be a primary virtue. To love as Jesus loved, which is always in a sacrificial way. That is the highest virtue and what binds the covenant together.”

The series also features a military chaplain’s take on rebuilding trust, and allows couples a time for prayer and reflection through music and meditations guided by Br. Isaiah, CFR, [Michael Corsini](#), and [Laura Huval](#).

For more information and graphics, visit: <https://witnessstolove.org/militarydatenight/>

To schedule an interview, contact Daniela Mazzone: daniela@witnessstolove.org

Witness to Love’s mission is to build and sustain communities of Evangelizing Spouses to Be Light in our world. We believe in building communities that connect couples to Christ and the Church, and not just creating content. Join our Marriage Movement today!

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