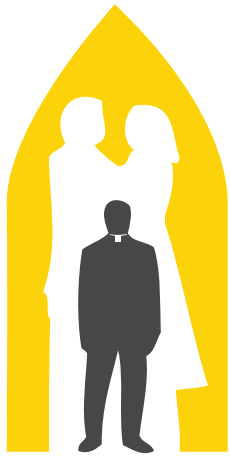




witness^{to}love.org
MARRIAGE PREP RENEWAL MINISTRY

Case for Support



witnessto**love**



“We have spent much of the last four years evaluating and testing different programs, events, and resources that can strengthen marriages and families. This has included a close look at programs that are secular, Catholic, and evangelical. Without a doubt, *Witness to Love* is THE most effective pre-marital resource that exists today. It works so well because their entire model is built upon the creation of a transformative relationship between a mentor couple and the engaged that fosters authenticity, intimacy, and discipleship. If the future of the church is going to pass through the family, I think future families should first pass through *Witness to Love*.”

—**J. P. De Gance**
Executive Vice President
Philanthropy Roundtable

Marriage - The Bedrock of Society

Good marriages are the bedrock of strong societies, for they are the foundations of strong families. And strong families are the foundation for the world. No other institution has the ability to impact individuals and society in such a profound way as marriage. Tragically, this indispensable institution is crumbling around us, producing grave consequences that will shape the future of the world and the health and stability of the human person.

Most people today desire a good marriage, but the problem is that many do not really know how to be married and stay married! A lot of people have never seen what whole families look like. They are formed in generational examples of divorce and social instability. People are struggling to learn about the true meaning and experience of marriage, friendship, and family. This is not something that we are born understanding; it is something we have to learn.

Marriages in the U.S. Church are down 50 percent since 1990 with no signs of reversal. Fewer marriages in the Church mean fewer baptisms, fewer first communions, and even fewer confirmations. Of those who do end up receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation, only 15 percent are expected to be practicing their faith by age 21.

And for those married in the Church for 20 years, the divorce rate hovers around 50 percent - *the same rate as those not married in the Church*. According to a Pew Research Center's 2015 report, one in four Catholics have experienced divorce and more than four in ten have lived with a romantic partner, further increasing their chances for a divorce.

Statistics for Catholics Married in the Church*

Number of Years Married	Percentage of Marriages that Survive
Within the first year	97%
5 years	77%
10 years	65%
15 years	58%
20 years	49% - <i>less than half</i>

*Austin Institute 2018

Witness to Love

Ryan and Mary-Rose Verret noticed newly married couples were missing in many Catholic parishes. They 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 were not sufficient for success. 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.

What is *Witness to Love*?

Witness to Love is a virtues-based, Catechumenate model of marriage renewal and preparation that integrates modern principles of psychology to help couples facilitate an authentic dialogue about their relationship. *Witness to Love* helps mentor couples guide and encourage engaged couples to integrate and connect them with their parish, while reaping fruits of renewal and growth within their own marriage.

The Goal of *Witness to Love*

- *Witness to Love* invites engaged couples to witness healthy marital family love and family life from the mentor couple whom they choose. This process integrates them into their parish through a formation plan for both the engaged couple and their mentors.
- The *Witness to Love* process invites engaged and newly married couples into “ecclesial community” and focuses on the “key points of entry” into the life of their parish.
- *Witness to Love* forms family missionary disciples in every participating parish. Couples who go through *Witness To Love*, especially the mentor couples, become missionaries to their local communities.

What makes *Witness to Love* different?

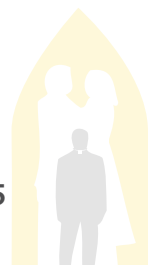
What makes *Witness to Love* unique is the mentor-couple format in which the engaged couple chooses their own mentor couple that they admire and see as a source of faith formation. Extending and deepening constructive relationships with Christ and the Church to support marriages is the goal of this initiative. The married couple is coached to mentor the engaged couple. Unlike other mentor models, there is no need to build trust in order for the marriage prep process to work – the trust already exists. This is the unique two-for-one evangelization and catechesis opportunity provided to parishes through *Witness to Love*.



Fruit of *Witness to Love* — IT WORKS!

More than 3000 couples at more than 400 parishes in dioceses throughout the United States and Canada have experienced the fruit of *Witness to Love*'s approach of welcoming, mentorship, and evangelization. Over the past five years, the **divorce rate in parishes who have implemented *Witness to Love* has decreased by double digits and participation in parish life by newlyweds has increased from 10% to as high as 70 - 90%**. The numbers show that *Witness to Love* works in lowering the divorce rate and increasing involvement in parish life.

The future of marriage preparation, by necessity, includes mentor couples witnessing to engaged couples within their own church community.



Journey through TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE PREP



INFORMATION-DRIVEN — Couples go to a **conference** or a **retreat** where they are given **information** about the Sacrament of Marriage through a series of **intellectual talks** delivered by someone they usually do not know.

ASSIGNED MENTOR COUPLE — Couples are **assigned a mentor couple**. The vast majority of these assigned relationships do not blossom into authentic friendships. As a result, these couples part paths after the wedding day, and the newly wedded couple is not shown what it means to live out a virtuous, holy marriage when they need it the most.



LACK OF PARISH INVOLVEMENT — Since the vast majority of couples do not grow in their trust of the Church or their assigned mentors, they often **do not increase their Church involvement**. In fact, statistics show that the majority of newly wedded couples do not attend Mass regularly.

LACK OF SUPPORT — Without someone to turn to, couples **do not have support and marriage enrichment** throughout their marriage. Couples who do reach out for help often do so after they are separated.



23%

Divorce Rate for
Catholic Couples
5-Year Mark

vs.

25%

Divorce Rate
for General Population
5-Year Mark

Results

Traditional marriage preparation is not significantly impacting the divorce rate.



MENTORSHIP — Through a **mentorship model**, couples preparing for marriage **choose** a mentor couple to grow in **relationship** with who attends Mass regularly and is active in their parish. Couples meet with their mentor couple monthly to **read and discuss the Sacrament of Marriage, friendship, and virtue** using the *Witness to Love* workbook and videos.

RELATIONSHIP — Trusting, authentic, and chosen **relationships deepen** with the chosen mentor couple. The couples often go out on **double dates** and **attend Mass together**. *Through relationship*, the mentor couple models what it means to live a virtuous, holy marriage.



INCREASED PARISH INVOLVEMENT — Because a trusting relationship deepens, the couple **openly receives invitations** from the mentor couple to be **involved in the Church parish** by attending Mass or joining small groups. The couple is naturally integrated into parish life pre- and post- wedding day.

CONTINUED SUPPORT — As a result of having a trusting relationship with their chosen mentor couple, **couples have the support and marriage enrichment** needed early on and throughout the journey of marriage.



5.8%

Divorce Rate
Witness to Love Couples
5-Year Mark

70-90%

Increase
in church attendance
among *Witness to Love*
newlyweds.

Results

Witness to Love marriage preparation lowers the chances of divorce and increases the chances of parish involvement.

Witness to Love renews the parish through relationship.

***Witness to Love* Mission**

The mission of *Witness to Love* is to provide local churches with the tools to transform existing programs of marriage preparation into wellsprings of dynamic marriage discipleship, fostering both parish connection and authentic accompaniment before and after the wedding day.

***Witness to Love* helps parishes make the most of their Marriage Preparation by:**

- Making the marriage preparation process a tool for evangelization
- Utilizing the witness of couples and families the engaged couple already knows and trusts, and then forming these witnesses into mentors
- Integrating engaged couples into parish life
- Accompanying couples after the wedding day
- Training marriage preparation staff and volunteers
- Complementing current parish and diocesan programs and resources
- Answering the needs addressed by the USCCB and NACFLM

***Witness to Love* Methodology**

Giving Couples Dynamic Lifelines to Hold onto, Not Hoops to Jump Through

A key part of our job as marriage preparation facilitators is making the transition from engagement to married life as smooth and secure as possible. Within *Witness to Love*'s model, there is a unique blend of two essential components that have correlations in both the Catholic tradition and in the psychological sciences:

- **Virtues**
- **Secure Mentor Attachments**

This is an integrated, holistic approach that bridges the psychological sciences with our Catholic Faith for the service of authentic Christian discipleship within Sacramental Marriage.

Drawing from Aristotle and St. Thomas Aquinas' understanding of virtues and authentic human growth, we translate them for a contemporary audience. We also integrate interpersonal psychotherapy, attachment theory, and motivational interviewing, as well as address factors that lead to depression, marital struggles and divorce.

Witness to Love is working with couples in two areas of mainly primary (preventative) intervention:

Virtue

The virtues-based life skills component contained in the *Witness to Love* workbook is an internal piece where they are working on themselves individually, and as a couple. This equips couples with the necessary skills to prevent them from falling into unhealthy coping styles within their relationship.

Mentor Couples

Our mentorship program forms a mentor couple to be a Christ-like, secure attachment base during the transition from engagement to married life. The mentorship program itself facilitates security and formation through and with this couple, who is able to accompany the engaged couple in their growth in virtue.





“Virtue is best taught, acquired, developed and sustained in an attached relationship with a trusted friend and mentor.”

Psychological research has shown that it is within an attached relationship that moral virtue is best understood, acquired and lived. Our virtue-based life skills material is focused on character formation, which is beneficial to any relationship, but especially for one’s particular spouse and marriage. Virtue is generally nurtured through one’s own particular effort in authentic personal introspection and interiority - striving to be the best version that one can be. We can fuse focus on self-growth (within the context of our relationships) and virtue, and the byproduct is improved relationship satisfaction.

All of this is done within the safety of a relationship with a mentor couple that the engaged couple already trusts. The chosen mentors are coached and formed to walk with the engaged couple in a fashion that an appointed mentor cannot. Attachment theory provides a well-researched model that is commonly used in marital therapy, as well as for understanding some features of conversion and of our experiences of God, and offers a rationale for why the *Witness to Love* model works.

A virtue-based approach to character development is suitable to a wide range of couples approaching the Church for the sacrament of matrimony. Regardless of an individual’s developmental history, the mentor couples who have been formed in the *Witness to Love* model can offer themselves as valuable witnesses and secure guides. As witnesses to love, they can make the challenging, but commendable goal of a virtuous marriage seem much more attainable and give the engaged couple a dynamic lifeline to hold onto throughout their engagement and marriage.

Guidelines are given to discern their choice of a mentor couple from among married couples that they know and trust. Some of the key guidelines for discernment include seeking a potential mentor couple who attends Mass regularly, has been married in the Catholic Church five years or more, and has a marriage the engaged couple admires. Additional guidelines can be given depending on the situation.



Evangelization - Renewing Parish Life through *Witness to Love*

Attraction, Relationship, Trust

When leading someone to a deeper understanding and acceptance of the faith and the person of Christ, they are more likely to be open if they see and experience something they don't already have, but would like to have. For example, if they are attracted to the joy, the kindness, and the passion they experience with another, they are likely to desire the same. Evangelization begins when one experiences Christ and Christian virtue in someone else. The core of *Witness to Love's* methodology is based on three essential components - attraction, relationship, and trust. Each of these three are critical and integral to the work of evangelization. They take into account how we come to understand, accept, and live the truth.

In looking at relationships and the role that human friendships play in evangelization, most often it is a friend who brings another friend to meet Christ. It is through relationships that disciples are born. Relationships cannot be created, they can only be born; a great friendship can be born from the smallest seed of **attraction**.

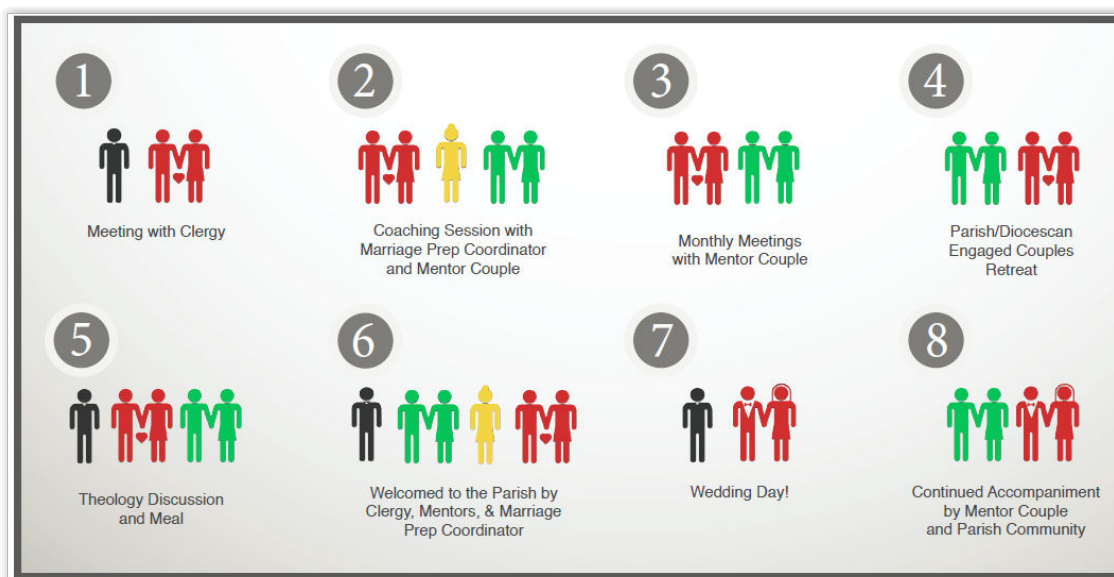
True friendships and **relationships** are established on truth and on the one who is Truth incarnate, Jesus Christ. When one considers the people in their life whose opinion matters the most to them, it is typically those with whom one has deep and lasting relationships. There is a hunger today for real friendship!

Most importantly, **trust** is one of the most important aspects of evangelization. A significant challenge to evangelization is that young people today (Millennials) do not trust the Church. They do not trust institutions, experts, theologians, or anyone with whom they do not already have a relationship or at least are attracted to.

Using this model, Witness to Love has seen:

- Church attendance increase from 10 percent to 70 percent, and even 90 percent in some locations.
- Both mentor and newly married couples stay connected to the parish community even outside of Mass on Sunday.
- The divorce rate drop from 23 percent at five years after the wedding day, down to below 5 percent at 5 years after the wedding day.
- Couples continue going to church with their mentor couples after the wedding day.
- In most cases, mentor couples come to a new place of conversation in their faith and in their marriage.
- Couples volunteer for parish events, and together join small groups.
- Lives transformed, marriages strengthened, friendships established within the Church, trust nurtured...and disciples born.

8 Steps of Fruitful Marriage Preparation



Witness to Love Priority Plan 2018-2020

Overarching Goal

Foster the growth of beautiful sacramental marriages for the next generation by establishing *Witness to Love* as the primary provider of resources and research for marriage preparation and marriage enrichment.

Primary Areas of Focus

1. Ministry Maturity
2. Increase Accessibility
3. Research Initiatives

Primary Objectives

1. Ministry Maturity

Mature Witness to Love as an organization to better serve the most urgent needs of the Church, marriage, family, and parish life.

- Develop the necessary infrastructure to support smart growth and to position WTL to take advantage of every opportunity to fulfill our mission
Status: Ongoing
- Non-Profit Structure
Goal: Key documents and procedures refined and implemented by September 1, 2018.
Status: Completed
- Adequate Facilities
Goal: Secure larger office facilities outside of the Verret home by March 1, 2019.
- Streamlined Operations
Goal: New operational structure and procedures implemented by December 31, 2018.
Status: Ongoing
- Realign the board structure to create multiple facets of leadership and guidance to support the mission and growth of WTL.
Status: Completed
- Broaden the Board of Directors to include national leaders and philanthropists with a passion for serving marriages in the Church.
Goal: Secure commitments from 5 leaders by October 1, 2018; hold board meeting by November 30, 2018.
Status: Completed
- Create a Program Advisory Board of top family life leaders and clergy to give input and guidance to the development of WTL programs.
Goal: Secure commitments from 4-6 leaders by October 1, 2018; hold first meeting by June 30, 2019.
- Create an Advancement Advisory Board of leading professionals who can provide professional guidance in the areas of fundraising, networking and sales opportunities.
Goal: Secure commitments from 6-8 professional leaders by June 30, 2019; hold first meeting by September 15, 2019.



2. Increase Accessibility

Provide ways for Witness to Love programs to be more accessible to more dioceses, parishes, Church leaders, and the Church at-large to help as many marriages as possible.

New Programs for New Audiences

- **Convalidation Program** - Develop a comprehensive convalidation program as a resource for pastors and parishes to accompany couples into the blessing of a sacramental marriage.
Completed Spring 2019
- **Non-Denominational Version** - Develop a non-denominational version of current marriage prep program to be released with the support of the Family Research Council and state Family Forums around the US.
Goal: Finalize program by June 30, 2019; soft launch Q3-Q4 2019.
- **Marriage Enrichment Program** - Complete and launch app-based marriage enrichment program, a 52-week journey that offers a “second phase” intended to move newly married couples into the mystogica stage of sacramental and ecclesial faith formation.
Goal: Soft launch by December 31, 2019.
- **Clergy & Seminarian Formation** - Draft content for seminary formation for marriage preparation and evangelization for engaged Millennials.
Goal: Completion of draft by June 30, 2020.
- **Natural Family Planning Supplement** - Creation of a more in-depth supplement to educate and promote fertility awareness (Natural Family Planning) within our current program.
Goal: Completion of filming with finalizing content by June 30, 2019; launch of supplement by October 1, 2019.

New Languages to Serve More Non-English Speaking Couples

- **Spanish** - Completion of Spanish-language program and launch of marketing plan to predominantly Spanish-speaking dioceses
Completed Spring 2019
- **French** - Completion of French-language program and soft launch in French-speaking regions of Canada with the support of Cardinal Marc Ouellet.
Goal: Program completion with soft launch by June 15, 2019.
- **Vietnamese** - Completion of training of Vietnamese family life leaders and begin process for program translation.
Goal: Complete leader training by June 30, 2019; begin translation process by December 31, 2019.

3. Research Initiatives

- Launch *Witness to Love* app as the primary means of on-going formation, community building and tool for research.
Goal: Refine and finalize app by July 1, 2018; soft launch of app release by September 1, 2018.
- Begin specific data tracking of app users and review initial trends.
Goal: Begin initial data analysis by June 2019.

“The strongest proof that we are made in the image of the Trinity is this: love alone makes us happy because we live in a relationship, and we live to love and be loved.”

—Pope Benedict XVI



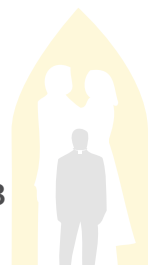
Need for Support

Based on the 2019-20 Priority Plan, *Witness to Love* is currently pursuing the following initiatives and is seeking financial support from committed donors with a passion for rebuilding marriage within the Church and lowering the annual divorce rate. There has never been a more important time than now to put clear focus and resources into the support and formation of marriage. The future of our world depends on it.

Initiative	Cost	Goal
Podcast: Production, Editing, & Audience Building	\$30,000	Launch a podcast for Catholic couples to provide them with a positive and engaging witness of sacramental marriage through interviews with other couples living “real” lives
French Videos: Filming & Editing	\$25,000	Produce a video series in French to complement the new French translation of WTL’s workbook for engaged couples
Spanish Leaders Training & Development Materials	\$40,000	Create leadership training materials for WTL’s on-line training certification program for Spanish-speaking marriage champions
On-going Leadership Training for Current WTL Couples	\$60,000	Design an on-going leadership training program for WTL’s 5000+ couple who are seeking additional training and formation to better understand the mystery and sacrament of marriage
Media Production Studio	\$20,000	Build a fully-equipped production studio in WTL’s new Hospitality Center to support the on-going needs of more than 75 dioceses and more than 400 parishes that WTL serve around the world currently using WTL’s programs
Family Life Director Family Retreat	\$25,000	Host a leadership and renewal retreat for marriage and family life leaders from around the US and beyond to provide community, support, and training for their ministry work
Interdenominational Video Production	\$20,000	Create a video series to accompany WTL’s new interdenominational-version of our marriage preparation program for use in non-Catholic churches

Funded	
Convalidation Program	\$60,000
Non-Denominational Program	\$60,000 (75% Funded)
Spanish-Language Version	\$15,000
French-Language Version	\$40,000
Witness to Love App	\$10,000
Data Tracking / Research	\$20,000

***Thank you for
your support of
Witness to Love.***



What Others Are Saying About *Witness to Love*

"It is with enthusiasm that I recommend *Witness to Love's* programs and resources to you. The fruits fostered by this ministry bring about deeper parish connection and authentic accompaniment for engaged and newly married couples."

—**Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond,**
Archbishop of New Orleans

"*Witness to Love* holds out great promise for strengthening marriage and family life in our parishes."

—**Most Reverend Salvatore Cordileone,**
Archbishop of San Francisco

"*Witness to Love* is an opportunity to bring to our engaged couples an invitation to deeper love, a closer relationship to God, and deeper involvement in the life of the parish."

—**Bishop Robert McElroy of San Diego**

"The formation and continuing support we give to couples entering into matrimony is perhaps the most important project we undertake."

—**Bishop Joseph Strickland of Tyler, TX**

"*Witness to Love*, to me, is authentic development in marriage preparation. It's a program worthy of exploration for anyone serious about the New Evangelization."

—**Mike Phelan,**
Director of Marriage and Respect Life
Diocese of Phoenix

"Each engaged couple is able to have an experiential understanding of how marriage operates not only in their own life, but in the lives of other couples in our parish."

—**David Dawson**
Director, Family Life Apostolate
Archdiocese of New Orleans

Witness to Love "re-integrates" the mentor couple as well, not only into the parish, but also into their own marriage. It gives them a set of "fresh" eyes towards their own relationship with each other and with God.

— **Deacon David Dawson, Pastoral Associate**

The more I do in ministry, including marriage prep, the more I am convinced that in today's culture real evangelization happens person to person. (...) The *Witness to Love* mentor couples always express their gratitude for being part of the process. They always comment that it was "very good for their own marriage." As a pastor, *Witness To Love* is a no-brainer for this very reason. We get the chance to evangelize, form, and catechize two couples for the price of one! Give *Witness To Love* a try and you will not regret it.

— **Fr. Andrew Merrick, Pastor in Baton Rouge**

"I want to say that this process is in the heart of the New Evangelization. I have seen couples enter into this process and their mentors walk together having fun while finding the essence of marriage who is Jesus Christ. Mary Rose and Ryan have not only made marriage preparation fun for all, including the priest, but have created an environment by which Christ is rediscovered."

— **Fr. Ryan Adams, Associate Pastor in Detroit**

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

— **Jeremy & Lindsay,**
Witnesses to Love engaged couple participants

"The process was amazing. We didn't think we had a perfect marriage, but the fact that someone thought the way we lived, prayed, and loved was an inspiration was truly an eye opener for US for what we really had."

— **Caprice & Dane,**
Witness to Love mentor couple

"Prior to taking these courses I didn't think very much of marriage, especially since I grew up in a household where my parents weren't married. When we first started dating, he would always bring up the word "marriage". He said how much he wanted a family and to raise kids in a much better environment. He was raised in a household where his parents weren't married as well. Doing *Witness to Love* has made us realize that going to church, praying, supporting each other, having faith in one another and communicating is a very important part of our marriage. We are both so excited to start this new chapter in our lives and raising our children the right way. We can't wait!!

— **Opal, Engaged participant**



Appendix A

Meet the Founders of Witness to Love

Mary-Rose and Ryan Verret are the founders of *Witness to Love* and the authors of *Witness to Love: How to Help the Next Generation Build Marriages that Survive and Thrive*.

Together Ryan and Mary-Rose speak on issues regarding evangelization, marriage, NFP, miscarriage and medical ethics. They are frequent guests on EWTN's Catholic Radio for Acadiana and they reside in the heart of Cajun Country with their five children. Their passion is teaching couples to share their marriage with others!



Appendix B

Witness to Love Board of Directors



Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond

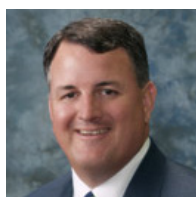
Diocese of New Orleans, United State Conference of Catholic Bishops, Ecclesial Advisor

Archbishop Gregory Aymond has been the Ecclesial Advisor to *Witness to Love* since 2015. He was installed as Archbishop of New Orleans on August 20, 2009 and now serves as the 14th Archbishop of New Orleans. He holds the unique distinction of being the first New Orleans native to serve as Archbishop of New Orleans in the 216-year history of the local church. Archbishop Aymond has served as chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People, and of the Board of Directors of the National Catholic Educational Association from 2000-04.



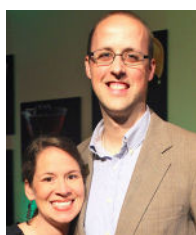
Fr. Eric Cadin, Clergy Advisor

Father Eric Cadin is a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston, who currently serves full time in the vocation office. He was ordained in 2012, and first served as parochial vicar of St. Michael Parish in North Adover, Massachusetts. He received his B.A. from Harvard College, STL from Boston College, and MDiv from St. John's Seminary. Before entering seminary, he spent a year living in a tent on the North Shore of Oahu to further his surfing passion. There he co-founded the Ivy League Surfing Championship and quickly recognized God's capacity to unveil Himself in moments of awe and beauty.



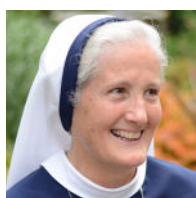
Taylor Davis, Financial Advisor

Taylor Davis is a representative with the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. The mission of the Network is to develop enduring relationships with clients by providing expert guidance for a lifetime of financial security. Taylor Davis works with clients to identify their definitions of financial security and then focuses on solutions that can help make those financial goals a reality. He helps find the right solutions for personal, family or business needs. Taylor is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU).



Mr. & Mrs. David Dawson, Program/Curriculum Advisors

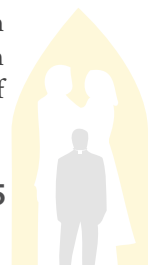
David and Kate have been married for ten years and have seven children. They speak locally and internationally on faith and marriage. They have provided marriage preparation for many engaged couples and currently serve as the national coordinators for the Domestic Church, which provides lifelong formation for sacramentally married couples. David works as the Director of the Office of Marriage and Family Life for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He also serves on the national board for the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers, and as chair of the Louisiana Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee for Family Life Ministry.



Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, S.V.,

Strategic and Spiritual Advisor

Among the first group of women to respond to John Cardinal O'Connor's inspiration for the Sisters of Life was Mother Agnes Mary Donovan. She received a PhD in Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1985. Responsible for anchoring a new religious community in its charism and guiding it to holiness, Mother Agnes is often called on across the country to share the message of reverence for human life, the gift and patrimony of the Institute she leads.





Fr. Michael Delcambre, Spiritual Advisor

Fr. Michael has been involved in developing and forming the *Witness to Love* methodology and has been the Spiritual Advisor since it was discovered back in 2013. He is currently Pastor of Sacred Heart in Broussard, Louisiana. Fr. Michael serves as a faculty member of the Institute for Priestly Formation and co-creator of the Parish Life Cycle.



David Lukinovich, Legal Advisor

David is a board-certified Tax Specialist and Estate Planning and Administration Specialist, by the Louisiana Board of Legal Specialization. He is a member of several organizations and serves on various business and charity boards. David received his B.S. in accounting from Louisiana State University, his Juris Doctor (magna cum laude) from Loyola University of the South Law School, and an L.L.M. degree in taxation from New York University. David practiced as a CPA for two years in New Orleans, and has served as an adjunct professor in taxation and probate procedure for many years at Loyola University School of Law.



Peter Martin, Program/Curriculum Advisor

Peter Martin and his wife have been married for seven years and have two children. Peter has served on the Board of *Witness to Love* since 2015 and has helped this program to develop texts, and attachment-based and virtues-focused formation modules. Peter, a 2009 graduate of The Institute for Psychological Sciences' PsyD program, holds Master's degrees in Clinical Psychology from IPS, in Religious Studies from Providence College, and in Counseling Psychology from the University of Kansas. A licensed psychologist in the state of Nebraska, he is also the Internship Director of Integrated Training and Formation at Catholic Social Services (CSS) of Southern Nebraska. He started, and currently heads, a clinical outreach site at the Newman Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Kate Sell, Organizational/Strategic Advisor

Kate Sell, founder and managing partner of Mission Advancement Partners, has more than 15 years of experience in business and nonprofit consulting. Kate has worked with all phases of organizational development. She uses her expertise in planning and strategy to bring clarity and focus to growth and transition, and equips clients to maximize resources to effectively achieve goals. She helps organizations understand the Catholic landscape in the 21st Century, and guides organizations to live their unique mission with innovative evangelistic strategy. A convert to the Catholic faith in 1999, Kate lives with her husband Bryan and their five children.



Bonnie M. Wyllie, Non-Profit Management Advisor

Bonnie specializes in nonprofit tax consulting, charitable gift planning, and has extensive experience in nonprofit, individual, estate, trust, and tax compliance. Her commitment to nonprofits extends to involvement in the community. She received the Order of St. Louis medallion for service in the Archdiocese of New Orleans. She frequently gives lectures, and provides training to boards and nonprofits. She is certified by BoardSource to be one of their governance trainers. Bonnie received her B.S., B.M., and Juris Doctor from Loyola University, her LL.M. degree in taxation from Georgetown University Law Center, the AICPA Nonprofit Certificate, and a Nonprofit Management Certificate.



Charles Tixier, Business Advisor

Charles Tixier is a retired petroleum engineer, who was blessed to have had a 25 year marriage to the late Kathlyn Kornberg. Their marriage grew and was strengthened by Kathy's intuitive understanding that marriage is a journey, and like a vineyard, requires continuous work in order to reap the abundant and ever increasing fruits of a Christian marriage. He firmly believes that the family, as the basic unit of society, is under attack by the ever increasing secularization of our society and the Christian family is one of the few remaining outposts that can turn the tide of secularization.





Appendix C

Witness to Love by the Numbers*

*As of March 2020

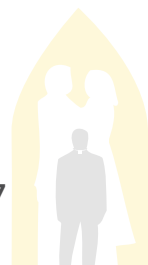
Total Number of Parishes Served	503
Total Number of Engaged Individuals/ Mentor Individuals Served since 2016	13,544
Total Number of Parish Leaders, Coordinating Couples, and Clergy Currently Trained by Witness to Love since 2016	6410
Total Number of Dioceses Confirmed to work with in the next 12-18 months	17
Estimated New Parishes Using Witness to Love Over the Next 18 Months	450
Retention Rate for Parishes Using Witness to Love	100%

Dioceses Served by *Witness to Love*

Archdiocese of Atlanta, GA
 Archdiocese of Baltimore, MD
 Archdiocese of Boston, MA
 Archdiocese of Cincinnati, OH
 Archdiocese of Detroit, MI
 Archdiocese of Dubuque, IA
 Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, TX
 Archdiocese of Lipa, Philippines
 Archdiocese of Los Angeles, CA
 Archdiocese of New Orleans, LA
 Archdiocese of New York, NY
 Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, OK
 Archdiocese of Philadelphia, PA
 Archdiocese of Portland, OR
 Archdiocese of Seattle, WA
 Archdiocese of St. Louis, MO
 Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, MN
 Archdiocese of Vancouver, BC, Canada
 Diocese of Albany, NY
 Diocese of Alexandria, LA
 Diocese of Arlington, VA
 Diocese of Austin, TX
 Diocese of Baton Rouge, LA
 Diocese of Birmingham, AL

Diocese of Boise, ID
 Diocese of Bridgeport, CT
 Diocese of Burlington, VT
 Diocese of Charleston, SC
 Diocese of Cleveland, OH
 Diocese of Columbus, OH
 Diocese of Davenport, IA
 Diocese of Fort Wayne South Bend, IN
 Diocese of Fresno, CA
 Diocese of Gallup, TX
 Diocese of Green Bay, WI
 Diocese of Helena, MT
 Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, LA
 Diocese of Joliet, IL
 Diocese of Kalamazoo, MI
 Diocese of Knoxville, TN
 Diocese of Lafayette, LA
 Diocese of Lake Charles, LA
 Diocese of Lansing, MI
 Diocese of Orange, CA
 Diocese of Palm Beach, FL
 Diocese of Patterson, NJ
 Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, FL
 Diocese of Phoenix, AZ

Diocese of Sacramento, CA
 Diocese of Salt Lake City, UT
 Diocese of San Antonio, TX
 Diocese of San Bernardino, CA
 Diocese of San Diego, CA
 Diocese of San Francisco, CA
 Diocese of San Jose, CA
 Diocese of Santa Rosa, CA
 Diocese of Saskatoon, SK, Canada
 Diocese of Sioux Falls, SD
 Diocese of Springfield, IL
 Diocese of St. Augustine, FL
 Diocese of St. Louis, MO
 Diocese of St. Petersburg, FL
 Diocese of Trenton, NJ
 Diocese of Tulsa, OK
 Diocese of Tyler, TX
 Diocese of Venice, FL
 Diocese of Wichita, KS
 Diocese of Winona-Rochester, MN
 Diocese of Youngstown, OH
 Diocèse de Rimouski, QC, Canada
 Diocèse de Saint-Jérôme, QC, Canada
 Diocèse de Vannes, France



Appendix D

Listing of 2019 Speaking and Training Engagements

Month	Event	Location
January	Training English/Spanish	Diocese of Tyler, TX
January	Information and Marriage Champions Sessions	Archdiocese of Denver, CO
January	Information and Marriage Champions Sessions	Sisters of Life Mother House, Stamford, CT
February	Information and Marriage Champions Sessions	New York City, New York
February	Information and Marriage Champions Sessions	Northern VA and Washington, DC
February	Family Retreat	New Mexico Knights of Columbus State Conference
February	Information and Marriage Champions Sessions	Acadiana Legatus Chapter, Lafayette, LA
March	Training English	Archdiocese of Denver, CO
June	Training English	Diocese of Manchester, NH
June	Training French	Province of Quebec, Canada
July	Training English and Spanish	California Bay Area Dioceses
August	Training English	Diocese of Venice, FL
October	Training English and Spanish	Southern California Dioceses
November	Training English	Archdiocese of Vancouver, BC, Canada





CONGREGATIO
PRO EPISCOPIIS

Vatican City, May 8, 2018

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Verret,

May Jesus Christ be praised now and forever!

Thank you very much for your letter of April 24th and the information concerning your apostolate, *Witness to Love: Marriage Prep Renewal*, whereby you seek to accompany and mentor engaged couples and bring them deeper into the life and communion of their parishes.

I joyfully recall our time together last summer near Quebec, where I also had the opportunity to meet your four lovely children: Zélie, André, Mélodie and Maëlle. Thank you for the attached photo, which brings back wonderful memories.

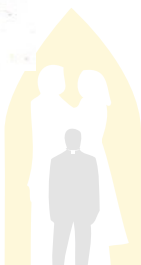
It is heartening to hear about the impact, through God's grace, that you are having on strengthening Catholic marriages and increasing Church attendance and parish participation among the engaged, newly married and their mentors. May Jesus continue to provide such rich fruit to your prayers, sacrifices and labors.

Please be assured of my prayers for this wonderful apostolate which is responding to a deep need in the Church and in society. Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, may you be blessed for your generous availability to the workings of the Holy Spirit in your lives.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Marc Cardinal Ouellet
Prefect

Mr. & Mrs. Ryan VERRET and Family
Witness to Love
1039 Rue Maline
St. Martinville, LA 70582
U.S.A.





Archdiocese of New Orleans

Office of the Archbishop

7887 Walmsley Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70125-3496
Office: (504) 861-9521
Fax (504) 314-9614
Email: archbishop@arch-no.org

February 19, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Witness to Love: Marriage Preparation Renewal Ministry is a response to Saint John Paul II's Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris Consortio* (1981) and the recent findings of the Extraordinary Synod of the Family (2014-15). It is with enthusiasm that I recommend *Witness to Love's* program and resources to you.

I have watched *Witness to Love* grow from a local parish program to what is now used by many dioceses and churches throughout the United States and beyond. In serving *Witness to Love* in an advisory capacity, I have seen how the founders, Ryan and Mary-Rose Verret, seek to provide parishes and dioceses with the resources to transform existing programs of marriage preparation into opportunities for marriage discipleship. The fruits fostered by this ministry bring about deeper parish connection and authentic accompaniment for engaged and newly married couples.

As the ecclesial advisor to *Witness to Love*, I am happy to recommend the Verrets and give their ministry my blessings and continued support. This program helps to address our concerns regarding marriage and family life.

If I can give further information, please let me know.

Wishing you God's blessing, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans



witnessto**love.org**
MARRIAGE PREP RENEWAL MINISTRY



witness^{to}love.org
MARRIAGE PREP RENEWAL MINISTRY