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Dear Marriage Champions,

It has been a joy for both **FOCCUS** and **Witness to Love** to serve so many parishes and dioceses across the country over the years. We are excited to share this collaborative directive for all parishes who support engaged couples utilizing both **FOCCUS** and **Witness to Love**. We hope that you find these resources helpful. Please feel free to reach out to both support teams as needed throughout parish implementation and for ongoing support: [foccus@foccusinc.com](mailto:foccus@foccusinc.com) and [parishsupport@witnessstolove.org](mailto:parishsupport@witnessstolove.org)

***“As the recent popes have requested, we continue to pray and seek better ways to evangelize, accompany, and form engaged couples to live in holy, happy, and healthy marriages. More and more we see the need of a team effort across various ministries to lovingly help couples succeed in their faith and life journey. Collaborating with Witness to Love brings together the unique qualities of both ministries, and it is our prayer that together, with the Lord’s guiding hand, we are able to provide your marriage ministry with a comprehensive opportunity to strengthen marriages and lead families to heaven!***

***Peace of Christ, and thank you for all you do for marriages.”***

***Michael J. Koley, Executive Director, FOCCUS Inc. USA***

***“It is a blessing to be able to share with you this new resource for marriage formation. After thoughtful conversation with parishes and dioceses who utilize both FOCCUS and Witness to Love, we have worked together to create an FAQ and Timeline to help support your marriage formation ministry. Thank you so much to the parishes and dioceses that assisted with this project and to FOCCUS for collaborating on this critical resource!”***

***Mary Rose Verret, Co-founder Witness to Love***

Thank you for partnering with us and more importantly, for your desire to renew marriages in our communities!

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### **FAQ's for a Smooth Transition: Incorporating both FOCCUS and Witness to Love**

**1- How much time will this process take, and is there a required number of FOCCUS sessions when collaborating with WTL?** *FOCCUS normally recommends four to six facilitation sessions (60 to 90 minutes each) by a trained FOCCUS facilitator but also realizes this number of sessions may not always be necessary or possible due to time constraints or in conjunction with other ministries. The FOCCUS manual (pg. 11) states that the inventory dialogue generally occurs within two to six sessions. It is up to the discretion of the parish/diocese working with the facilitators to determine the length of time and number of FOCCUS sessions when used with Witness to Love.*

*We have provided two suggested options below for incorporating FOCCUS and WTL sessions. In addition, the engaged couple may wish to complete the **FOCCUS for the Future**® document to help them bring what they have learned in the FOCCUS sessions to the Witness to Love sessions. Similarly, the FOCCUS Facilitator(s) may wish to complete the **FOCCUS Facilitation Summary Form**® to provide a summary of the facilitation experience to the WTL MPC (Note: the FOCCUS Facilitation Summary Form should not be shared with the WTL mentor couple. Both forms may be downloaded free [here](#).) All standard life skills topics are covered in the context of virtue development with the WTL mentors through the WTL Workbook. See suggested timeline options we have developed on the next page.*

**2- Can a FOCCUS Facilitator also be a WTL Marriage Prep Coordinator (MPC)?** *Yes. The role of the WTL MPC is best suited for an organized and evangelistic person(s). The Marriage Prep Coordinator is key to Witness to Love. The MPC will meet with an engaged couple and their mentors TWICE. **Keep in mind that if the WTL MPC is also trained in FOCCUS, then the FOCCUS inventory can be covered immediately prior to the WTL coaching session. This is the most effective use of time.** For more information on the role of a WTL MPC, please see our resource page [here](#). \*For larger church parishes, an existing FOCCUS facilitator could also consider becoming a WTL Coach Couple. Additionally, consider inviting existing FOCCUS couples to be WTL Showcase Mentor Couples and/or to coordinate a Theology of Marriage Retreat team.*

### **3 - Do Witness to Love and FOCCUS both have Mentor Couples?**

*The term "Mentor Couple" is used in a variety of ways throughout various marriage ministries.*

- **Witness to Love** uses the term "Mentor Couple" for a very specific role. The primary role of a WTL mentor is ongoing accompaniment after the wedding day. Please see WTL's Mentor Couple resource page [here](#) for a detailed explanation.
- **FOCCUS has a specific role called, "Facilitator."** Although FOCCUS does not technically have a role called "Mentor Couple," some dioceses/parishes/organizations informally also use the term "Mentor Couple" when referring to their FOCCUS facilitators. FOCCUS

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facilitators often provide mentorship during facilitation and after the wedding. To learn more about becoming a FOCCUS facilitator please see the FOCCUS resource page [here](#).

***In order to avoid confusion:*** When a diocese or parish chooses to use both Witness to Love and FOCCUS for their marriage ministries, it is recommended that the term “Mentor Couple” only be used for the Witness to Love role and that “FOCCUS Facilitator” be used for the FOCCUS inventory facilitation role.

### **Timeline: How to best implement WTL with FOCCUS**

#### **Option 1 (RECOMMENDED): Marriage Prep Coordinator (MPC) is trained in both WTL and FOCCUS. Note: This could also be a priest or deacon filling the role as MPC or choosing to review the FOCCUS inventory with engaged couples**

- First MPC meeting with the engaged couple to begin reviewing the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory Couple Report and the WTL process overview and guidelines to choose a mentor couple
- Second MPC meeting with the engaged couple to finalize the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory Couple Report followed by the WTL coaching session with the MPC, engaged and mentor couple
  - If another FOCCUS facilitation meeting is needed it can be done while the couple is going through WTL

#### **Option 2: Marriage Prep Coordinator (MPC) Handles WTL only, and a FOCCUS Facilitator reviews FOCCUS Inventory only**

- First meeting with the engaged couple to review the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory Couple Report with a trained FOCCUS facilitator(s) / followed by the WTL coaching session with MPC, engaged and mentor couple
- Second meeting with the engaged couple to finalize the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory Couple Report with a trained FOCCUS facilitator(s) sometime during the next few weeks after the first meeting. At this point the engaged couple and their mentor couple have begun their series of six WTL meetings.
  - If another FOCCUS facilitation meeting is needed it can be done while the couple is going through WTL

***Note:*** WTL Mentor Couples are NOT trained to review the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory Couple Report, but they may review the FOCCUS for the Future© document with the engaged couple’s permission.