

### WITNESS TO LOVE 8-STEP PROCESS







Coaching Session with Marriage Prep Coordinator and Mentor Coupl e





Monthly Meetings with Mentor Couple using Workbooks and Videos





Parish/Diocesan Engaged Couples Retreat (Mentors Invited)

#### **Meeting with Clergy:**

- Engaged couple given overview of WTL expectations
- Asked to discern a Mentor Couple before meeting with the Marriage Prep Coordinator (MPC)
- · Send PMI information to engaged couple to complete inventory
- MPC sends follow-up email to schedule coaching session with both engaged & mentor couple

Resource: Clergy Notes, WTL Intake Sheet

#### **Coaching Session with Marriage Prep Coordinator and Both Couples:**

- Engaged couples may discuss their Prepare/Enrich (or other inventory) results with the MPC before the coaching session begins and prior to mentor's arrival
- Process is explained by MPC; meeting details include materials and digital app review
- Couples are brought into the vision of WTL and a sample chapter and meeting are described
- Adouble date for both couples (preferably outdoors) is set ideally within 2 weeks

Resource: WTL Cheat Sheet, WTL Sample Emails, Scavenger Hunt List

## Monthly meetings with Mentor Couple using workbook and couple video series:

- Couples will complete the designated sections of each chapter within two days of the meeting
- Mentors will prepare by praying for their couple and reviewing the appropriate Mentor's Journey chapter prior to the meeting with engaged couple
- Scavenger Hunt items are completed between meetings

Resource: WTL App Resource, WTL Workbook

# WTL Parish/Regional Retreat OR Diocesan Couples Conference (Mentors Invited):

- A retreat provides deeper formation and fruitful conversation for the Theology Discussion Night
- The couples hould take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the wedding.
   There is an examination of conscience available at the end of chapter 4 of the work book
- Allcouples are encouraged to note any questions or concerns about the topics discussed at the retreat for clarification at the next meeting (Theology Discussion Night)

Resource: Be More: A Marriage Formation Retreat by WTL, WTL Example Parish Retreat Schedule

PHONE: 337-282-0446



### WITNESS TO LOVE 8-STEP PROCESS



Theology Discussion and Meal at Mentor s Home



Both Couples We lcomed to the Parish and Invited to Small Groups

**Theology Discussion and Meal at Mentors Home:** 

- This is an opportunity to build trust between both couples and the Church
- BothcouplesareencouragedtoaskhonestquestionsabouttheChurch'steachings on marriage, family, and sexuality, etc.
- Thementorsdonotneedtobeexpertsandthisnightisformationforthemaswell!

Resource: <u>Clergy Notes</u>, Video: Looking at the Theology Discussion Night with Fr. Michael Delcambre, Chapter 5 of the WTL Workbook

# Both Couples Welcomed to the Parish and Invited into Small Groups:

- Witness to Love offers a 2 for 1 evangelization model. This supports and strengthens our church community at the parish level.
- MPC and/or Church welcome the couple into the life of the parish to actively join and participate in ministry, small groups, adult formation, etc
- Find more resources <u>here</u>.

	Wedding Day!:
Step 7	<ul> <li>Couples have a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Matrimony</li> <li>Couples have experienced healing in their lives and grown in their trust of the Church</li> </ul>
ŤŤ	<ul> <li>Together couples have grown in virtue, friendship and developed a deeper prayer life and relationship with God, as well as the celebrant preparing them for</li> </ul>
Wedding Day!	<ul> <li>marriage.</li> <li>Couples feel more secure knowing they will receive continued accompaniment and support from both the chosen mentor couple as well as the parish</li> </ul>
Step 8	Continued Accompaniment by Mentor Couple and Parish Community:
	<ul> <li>Mentors continue to get together with newly married couple monthly for date nights, fellowship, formation and social gatherings using <u>WTL's Be Light series</u>.</li> <li>Mentors will be a bridge between newlyweds and the parish by inviting them to Mass and events</li> </ul>
Continued Accompaniment by Mentor Couple	<ul> <li>Welcometotheparish!Shareanyupcomingparisheventsorprogramswithbothcouples</li> <li>GivethanksfortheChurchandtheSacramentofHolyMatrimony:Godhasbrought you together for HIS purposes "Receive a Sacrament vs. Become a Sacrament"</li> </ul>

WEB: witnesstolove.org

and Parish Community

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Marriage Enrichment Movement

#### EXPERIENCE A NEW MARRIAGE MOVEMENT

5 Year Marriage Enrichment Program (Post-Wedding Day) The first five years of marriage are at the highest risk of divorce. 23% of all Catholic marriages end in divorce within the first 5 years. The antidote: community, friendship, and a healthy marriage and family life. Through walking the Way of Love we seek for these couples to not only survive but thrive and be living signs of God's love in the world.

### REGISTER FOR FREE www.witnesstolove.org/belight



Be Light is a five year Marriage Enrichment (Mystogia) movement that draws married couples closer together in Christ while being transformed into family missionary disciples within their own communities. This path not only supports newly married couples during the fundamental first five years of their marriage but also helps all married couples in a community to open their hearts to the powerful way God remains present to them and in the Holy bond of Matrimony. The five year sequence builds upon the opportunities for growth and fulfillment that takes place over and over again in the intimate and personal way Christ encounters married couples in their interactions together.

#### **Couples will develop the following:**

- A sense of belonging to a discipleship community
- Believing in the good news revealed about the Sacrament of Matrimony in Christ
- Becoming a couple growing deeper in the moral virtues while embracing the church's moral teachings
- Living freely in the Beatitudes
- Become a light to the nations as evangelizing spouses.

Monthly Sequence Released Every Thursday for a Date Night

(Testimonies, Podcast, Music Event)

- 1st Thursday: "A Couple's Light"
- 2nd Thursday: "A Shepherd's Light"
- **3rd Thursday:** *"Fuel for your Light"*
- 4th Thursday: "Music for your Light"



#### Year One: The Year of Belonging, Being at Peace

Belonging to a faith community is a critical component of spiritual commitment. We are created to belong, and our greatest fear is that we will not belong. Belonging provides a sense of peace that leads to a deepening commitment to one another while lowering the anxiety and ambivalence many have about relationships. Topics include: Introduction to Domestic Church, Walking Together, "You have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until we rest in You, God!" St. Augustine

- Evangelization Focus: A Year of Movement from Wanderer to Seeker
- Supporting Sacrament: Sacrament of Baptism

Reflection for the Year: (CCC 357).





**Marriage Enrichment Movement** 

#### EXPERIENCE A NEW MARRIAGE MOVEMENT



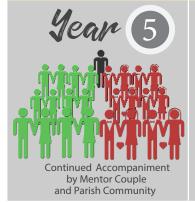
by Mentor Couple and Parish Community



Continued Accompaniment by Mentor Couple and Parish Community



by Mentor Couple and Parish Community



#### Year Two: The Year of Believing, Theological Virtue of Faith

Within relationships we see practical, real-world examples of faith and how belief in God shapes the way we interact with one another. We also get a better understanding of ourselves and can begin to discover answers to questions that are vital to good marriages. To succeed here we dive into developing our faith through a discovery of who God is and who we are in Him. This year is focused primarily on growing in the virtue of faith through the supporting practices of: belief, witness, and service.

- Evangelization Focus: A Year of Movement From Seeker to Believer
- Supporting Sacrament: Sacrament of Holy Matrimony

Reflection for the Year: (CCC 358).

#### Year Three: The Year of Becoming, Theological Virtue of Hope

Through a deepening desire of reverence for Christ as the basis of the relationship between spouses, trust is more deeply established as the good of the Sacrament of Marriage forming a couple in the unbreakable character or the indissolubility of the marital bond. The year deepens and enkindles a message of hope in the hearts of couples in the Transcendent Third.

- Evangelization Focus: A Year of Movement From Believer to Disciple
- Supporting Sacrament: Reconciliation, Healing and Forgiveness

Reflection for the Year: (CCC 359).

#### Year Four: The Year of Beatitude, Theological Virtue of Charity

In the Year of Beatitude, we are being formed in the theological virtue of Charity. We are delving into that place where friendship with God becomes very real to us. It is a place where we interact and receive all that He shares with us. It is the experience of God drawing us into an abiding and long lasting happiness and beatitude. For our purposes here we will see how it is within marriage and family, that "first and vital cell of society," that God offers to us a friendship that endures and transforms our marriage and our home with Christ dwells and calls us to live his!

- Evangelization Focus: A Year of Movement From Disciple to Apostle
- Supporting Sacrament: Holy Eucharist

Reflection for the Year: (CCC 360).

#### Year Five: The Year of Be Light, Virtue of Magnimity

The Year of Light moves couples into becoming authentic ambassadors of Christ in the world. They are formed in the model of Aquila and Priscilla, the married couple described in several parts of the New Testament as evangelizing with St. Paul. The Year of Light impels Evangelizing spouses to be missionary outposts of their local parishes providing pastoral the "closeness and gratuity," which are essential elements of evangelization and authentic faith formation.

- Evangelization Focus: From Apostle to Evangelizing Spouses/Family Missionaries
- Supporting Sacrament: Sacrament of Confirmation

Reflection for the Year: (CCC 361).