

# Holy Spirit Parish Sponsor Couple Program

## A Brief History of sponsor couple....

In 1975, in San Antonio TX, Msgr. Edmond Carmody (later he became the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Corpus Christi TX) began to train married couples to "*sponsor*" those preparing for Christian Marriage. Each trained Sponsor Couple agreed to host ~ *in their own home* ~ a series of 4 to 6 meetings with an engaged couple. This *one couple to one couple* format provided a higher level of intimacy/witness/flexibility than was possible in traditional (large group) marriage preparation programs. Sponsor couples were able to focus on the particular needs/issues of each engaged couple *In addition, sponsor couples claimed the process of sponsoring benefited their own marriage.*

In 1980, the publication of *For Better and For Ever* (Liguori Publications) by Rev. Robert Ruhnke made this program available to Catholic churches of North America. The Spanish edition was published in 1982. These editions went through major updates/revisions in 1989, and again in 1998 when it was published by Marriage Preparation Resources. A Christian (Protestant) edition was published in 2001. A Covenant ("secular") edition was published in 2007.

Today, *For Better and For Ever* continues to get better. The easy to use [workbook](#), the [training resources](#) and [other links on the web site](#) make it the most comprehensive and yet easy to use of all the commonly used marriage preparation programs.

Engaged couples prepare for the meetings with their Pastor or Deacon and later with their Sponsor/Mentor Couple by studying specific chapters of ***For Better and For Ever***, answering the questions, and sharing their answers in dialogue with their partner. Each meeting is about 2 - hours in duration, and is for further conversation and dialogue about the chapters studied. The Sponsor/Mentor Couple is trained to *adapt* the program to the needs and interests of each individual couple. The conversations between the engaged couple and the sponsor couple are kept private.

*For Better and For Ever* has become the most widely used program of its kind in the United States, Canada, Guam, and parts of Central/South America.

**Deacon Dave and Sue Brinkmoeller coordinate the parish sponsor couple program. Please feel free to contact them if you have questions or would like to become a sponsor couple.**