



## Diocesan Marriage Prep Workshop Information

The engaged couple is required to go through a marriage preparation program:

- **Witness To Love.** In this parish-based program, the engaged couple chooses a mentor couple – a married couple they both admire and see as a source of faith formation. The engaged couple meets with their mentor couple several times, giving them a connection and integration into the parish. Through the sharing of the mentor couple’s own marriage journey, the engaged couple inherits a “lifeline” of support in their commitment to Jesus and His Church. Workbooks and web-based videos are provided for their discussions. It is not necessary for mentors to have a knowledge of the theology of marriage and training is provided.

Mentor couples must be in a valid Catholic marriage for at least five years, be active in the Church, not be relatives or close personal friends of the engaged couple, and be willing to help make the future marriages of engaged couples better through their experiences. If the engaged couple is unable to find a mentor couple; the parish Marriage Prep Coordinator will assist them in finding a mentor couple.

- **Diocesan Retreat.** The final Marriage Prep Retreat is scheduled for September 2020. This two-day, overnight retreat is for engaged couples who have already begun their Marriage Prep, and consists of Workshops led by Marriage Prep Facilitators, an opportunity for reconciliation and Mass. Marriage Prep Retreats have been replaced by the **Witness To Love** program.
- **To Trust Again.** A one-day workshop held twice a year, led by Marriage Prep Facilitators, designed for couples 55 or older, who have been in a previous marriage (divorced or widowed).
- **On-Line Marriage Prep.** In the case of Military couples or geographical separation circumstances and with approval from the Diocese of Venice, the online program Catholic Marriage Prep can be used.
- **Private Instruction.** For older couples (75+ years) at least 4 hours of personal instruction by the Priest or Deacon may be given. It is preferred that Fully Engaged is used as a guide for preparing this couple.

At the discretion of the Priest or Deacon, in certain circumstances and with approval of the Diocese of Venice, engaged couples **under** 75 years of age may receive Private Instruction.

## **Convalidation Workshop Information**

The Diocese of Venice is pleased to provide a workshop specifically for couples who are already married and wanting to Convalidate their Marriage. This is a one-day workshop held two times a year from 8:30am-4pm on a Saturday. The day will be broken into four sessions consisting of The Vision of a Sacramental Marriage, Communication skills, God's plan for our Marriage and trusting our Marriage to God.

If couples are unable to attend this workshop, it is suggested they complete the workshop via the on-line course. To do so, a letter of permission must be submitted to the Family Life Coordinator asking for an exemption of the Diocesan Workshop.

Convalidation workshop dates can be found at: <http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/marriageprep>.

If you have questions about the Convalidation workshop, please contact our Family Life Coordinator.