



Marriage Mentoring is vital in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. Deciding how you fit into the grand scheme is important. Thank you so much for taking the time to simply pray about this invitation! Know that there is no pressure with this invitation, but also know that God many times asks us to stretch ourselves. Be assured that God will always provide all that is truly needed!

### **What is Marriage Mentorship?**

Marriage Mentor couples are an integral piece to the process of marriage preparation and marriage enrichment in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. It is marriage preparation best practice that couples that are preparing for marriage in our diocese are asked to meet with a mentor couple. Pope Francis in *Amoris Laetitia* discusses the importance of missionary families assisting with the primary objective to help each learn how to love. He goes on, “there are discussion that should occur about expectations and commitments” (208). He suggests that, “pastoral care of engaged and married couples should be centered on the marriage bond, assisting couples not only to deepen their love, but also to overcome problems and difficulties” (211).

We believe that marriage mentoring couples can help bridge the gap between priest, parish, and community. Helping to strengthen and stabilize marriages and increase the love within a family. Mentors provide an encouraging space for couples to affirm their strengths and work through weaknesses.

The Prepare-Enrich curriculum serves as a foundational piece to a parish’s marriage mentoring ministry.

### **What is the time commitment?**

**Initial Training:** 2-3 sessions of 2 hours each

**Mentoring:** Generally, about 2 couples per year.

### **What is involved with mentoring?**

1. Meet with couple preparing for marriage or seeking marriage enrichment.
2. Work through 2-4 areas from the Prepare-Enrich inventory assessment.
3. Communicate with the couple’s priest throughout mentorship.
4. Keep in touch with couples.
5. First Year Check-up

### **Things to keep in mind.**



**There is no “perfect” marriage.** There are only holy marriages where the couple allows God into their relationship. We all have weaknesses and fall into sin. It is only God who can strengthen and pick us back up. Feeling like you don’t have a “perfect” marriage is not a barrier to this ministry. Marriage mentors are entrenched in the challenges of real daily life.

Those who are in a valid Sacramental marriage and who have gone through the process of annulment are to be considered a great asset to marriage mentorship, as well.

**Some criteria for marriage mentors:**

- Valid Sacramental marriage in the Catholic Church
- Knowledge and adherence of the faith
- A desire to serve
- Solid boundaries and social skills
- Openness to learning and working as part of a team
- Joy-filled ability to articulate their faith to others
- Emulates the joy of love
- Willingness to pray together with others
- Honesty and humility