



## Witness to Love

is not just another marriage prep program. It is a renewal movement and an ethos centered around fostering community involvement in the marriage preparation process that bears fruit for the entire parish community. It is a unique and virtue based system of marriage renewal and preparation that prepares engaged couples for sacramental marriage and fosters their transition into a welcoming community of faith before and after they are married.

## What makes Witness to Love different?

What makes Witness to Love unique is that the engaged couples choose their own mentor couple. This is a couple they both admire and see as a source of faith formation. This mentor couple gives them a concrete connection and integration into the parish. Through the sharing of the mentor couples' own journey of love, the engaged couple inherits a "lifeline" of support in their commitment to Christ and His Church.

*"We are blessed with so many great resources in our diocese for marriage formation. Ideally, we recommend that couples participate in Witness to Love at their parish, attend Celebrating Your Love, and sign up for an Encounter weekend. Couples can benefit from all three in complimentary ways."*

**-OFLS team**



## AMORIS LAETITIA ON LOVE IN THE FAMILY

*"Married life is a process of growth in which each spouse is God's means of helping the other to mature. Change, improvement, the flowering of the good qualities present in each person all these are possible. Each marriage is a kind of 'salvation history,' which from fragile beginnings thanks to God's gift and creative and generous response on our part grows over time into something precious and enduring."*

**Pope Francis,**  
The Joy of Love



## DIocese OF SAN DIEGO | OFFICE FOR FAMILY LIFE & SPIRITUALITY

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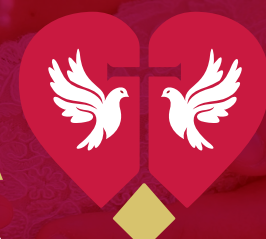
## CELEBRATING YOUR LOVE



## PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE IN THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO



WELCOME TO THE  
**JOURNEY OF YOUR LOVE**  
DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO



Tel. 858-490-8299  
[SDcatholic.org/marriageprep](http://SDcatholic.org/marriageprep)



## DEAR FRIENDS:

*Congratulations on your engagement!*

*We're so glad that you've chosen to marry in the Catholic Church. We are privileged to accompany you on the Journey of Your Love, and honored that you have entrusted with equipping you to traverse both the joys and the inevitable challenges that married life brings. Our great joy, above all, is to assist you in encountering Christ's love and its power to nourish and transform relationships.*

*May the Holy Spirit guide and direct you on this journey of love for each other, for your families, and for your extended family of faith, the Church. May this process of marriage preparation be one of enrichment, formation, and growth in faith, hope, and love.*

*You remain in our prayers,*  
**Cardinal Robert McElroy**  
*+ Robert W. McElroy*  
Bishop of San Diego

## THE MARRIAGE FORMATION PROCESS

### 1 STEP 1: MEET WITH YOUR MARRIAGE FORMATION MINISTER

As soon as you are ready to begin preparing for the sacrament of marriage, and before setting a date, call your parish to schedule a meeting with your marriage formation minister (typically your priest or deacon), who may also serve as the celebrant for your wedding.

### 2 STEP 2: TAKE THE FOCCUS INVENTORY

FOCCUS is meant to facilitate communication and conflict resolution skills before marriage. A REFOCCUS inventory is available to couples who have been civilly married for at least a few years. Your parish/formation minister will provide directions for completing the questionnaire.

### 3 STEP 3: CHOOSE YOUR OWN MENTOR



Couples will choose a mentor couple who can support, encourage, and pray for them throughout—and beyond—the marriage preparation process. Marriage preparation ministers can help couples select a mentor couple. Witness to Love is the recommended diocesan process for guiding the couple-to-couple encounter.

### 4 STEP 4: PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING MARRIAGE FORMATION PROGRAMS.

The decision about which program(s) to attend should be made in consultation with your priest/marriage formation minister.

**Celebrating Your Love (CYL) Diocesan Day** for engaged and civilly married couples. A one-day retreat held on Saturdays at locations throughout the Diocese. Explores Catholic teaching on marriage and provides an overview of practical and valuable skills for marriage.  
**Go to [sdcatholic.org/cyl](http://sdcatholic.org/cyl) for dates and registration.**

**Engaged Encounter Weekend.** A weekend experience starting on Friday evening and concluding late Sunday afternoon with the celebration of Mass. A priest and two trained team couples will present a selected number of presentations and personal sharing related to their vocation and experiences. Provides time for couples to dialogue honestly and intensively about their future lives together.  
**Register at [engagedencountersd.org](http://engagedencountersd.org).**

**Marriage Encounter Weekend.** Similar to Engaged Encounter, but for couples who have already been civilly married for at least 2-3 years.  
**Visit [wwme-sandiego.org](http://wwme-sandiego.org)**

**A New Beginning:** For couples entering a second marriage after the divorce or death of a former spouse (only one party needs to have been previously married).  
**For dates and registration, visit [sdcatholic.org/cyl](http://sdcatholic.org/cyl).**

