

Marriage Preparation

Information courtesy of the Diocese of St. Cloud Family Life Office.

A Sponsor Couple is a couple-to-couple ministry in which married couples mentor engaged couples to help them prepare for Christian marriage. The goal is to:

- * Foster a sense of care and concern to the engaged couples and help them prepare for their commitment within the Church and community.
- * Explore with the engaged couples issues through the results of the marriage preparation instrument (FOCCUS).
- * Help the engaged learn to pray together.
- * Provide engaged couples an opportunity to understand Sacramental Marriage through their own lived experience.

What does the training involve?

The six-hour training uses many different learning modes; group interaction, lectures and role playing. Some topics are:

- * Role of the Sponsor Couple
- * Working Together as a Couple
- * Using the Relationship Assessment Tool (FOCCUS)
- * Overview of Marriage Preparation
- * Marital Spirituality
- * Special Areas of Concern, i.e. cohabitation, premarital sex, interfaith

Suggested Qualities of a Sponsor Couple

- * Believe in marriage as a permanent and faithful commitment.
- * Belief in God and Church are necessary to a successful relationship.
- * Are generous, warm and nonjudgmental.
- * Are realistic and hopeful regarding the day-to-day living of marriage.
- * Are open-minded and can share their own lived witness of the sacrament.
- * Have the ability to listen well, reflect back and encourage participation without threatening.
- * Can be witnesses and companions with the engaged couples in their continued search for a fulfilling and successful marriage.
- * Have been married for at least three years, are following the teachings of the Catholic Church, and support the diocesan guidelines in preparing couples for marriage.
- * Endorse and support the teachings of the Church such as birth control, premarital sex, cohabitation, etc.
- * Understand the principle of confidentiality.

Marriage Preparation Sponsor Couples:

Glen & Deb Klaphake
Joey & Tricia Klaphake
Kevin & Karen Wensman
Ernie & Denise Kociemba
Ken & Eileen Maus
Mitch & Mary Depute
Joe & Audrey Spengler
Kevin & Ann Viere
Bernie & Lisa Brixius
Andy & Judy Heinen
Chris & Terri Ellering
Kurt & Mary Schwieters
John & Cathy Walburn
Chad & Vicky Doetkott
Eric & Joann Budde
Bob & Jan Leukam