

JOURNEY THROUGH TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE PREP

VS.

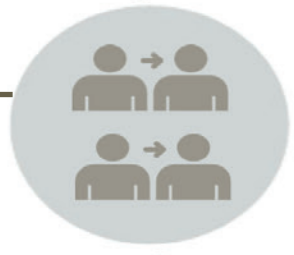


INFORMATION DRIVEN — Couples go to a conference or a retreat where they are given information about the Sacrament of Marriage through a series of intellectual talks delivered by someone they usually do not know.



MENTORSHIP — Through a mentorship model, couples preparing for marriage choose a mentor couple to grow in relationship with who attends Mass regularly and is active in their parish. Couples meet with their mentor couple monthly to read and discuss the Sacrament of Marriage, friendship, and virtue using the Witness to Love workbook and videos.

ASSIGNED MENTOR COUPLE — Couples are assigned a mentor couple. The vast majority of these assigned relationships do not blossom into authentic friendships. As a result, these couples part paths after the wedding day, and the newly wedded couple is not shown what it means to live out a virtuous, holy marriage when they need it the most.



RELATIONSHIP — Trusting, authentic, and chosen relationships deepen with the chosen mentor couple. The couples often go out on double dates and attend Mass together. Through relationship, the mentor couple models what it means to live a virtuous, holy marriage.



LACK OF PARISH INVOLVEMENT — Since the vast majority of couples do not grow in their trust of the Church or their assigned mentors, they often do not increase their Church involvement. In fact, statistics show that the majority of newly wedded couples do not attend Mass regularly.



INCREASED PARISH INVOLVEMENT — Because a trusting relationship deepens, the couple openly receives invitations from the mentor couple to be involved in the Church parish by attending Mass or joining small groups. The couple is naturally integrated into parish life pre- and post-wedding day.

LACK OF SUPPORT — Without someone to turn to, couples do not have support and marriage enrichment throughout their marriage. Couples who do reach out for help often do so after they are separated.



CONTINUED SUPPORT — As a result of having a trusting relationship with their chosen mentor couple, couples have the support and marriage enrichment needed early on and throughout the journey of marriage.



Divorce Rate for Catholic Couples 5-Year Mark

VS.



Divorce Rate for General Population 5-Year Mark

Results

Traditional marriage preparation is not significantly impacting the divorce rate.



Divorce Rate for Witness to Love Couples 5-Year Mark



Increase in Church attendance among Witness to Love newlyweds.

Results

Witness to Love marriage preparation lowers the chances of divorce and increases the chances of parish involvement. Witness to Love renews the parish through relationship.