



Seeking Mentors

Congratulations! If you are receiving this, it's because someone thought that you and your spouse would be a great mentor couple!

What does this mean?

The Diocese of Charleston has started implementing a marriage prep mentorship program called In-Home Marriage Prep. We are looking for seasoned married couples to meet with an engaged couple to go through the program and share their experience of the ups and downs of the school of marriage.

Why the “School of Marriage”?

Because we are all learning. Being a mentor does not mean that you are experts or have all the answers. It means that we are continually learning and growing, both personally and as a couple.

What topics are covered in the program?

Most marriage prep programs cover much of the same material: Family of Origin, Marriage Expectations, Communication, Finances, Sacrament of Matrimony, Natural Family Planning, Sex and Sexuality and Couple Spirituality. Don't worry — you don't need to be an expert in any of these areas! We do use additional resources, especially for Natural Family Planning and Theology of the Body.

What is the main benefit of doing a mentorship program?

What's great about a mentorship model is that it is totally customizable. Each couple (engaged or mentor) is different and has unique experiences and challenges. The beauty of meeting one-on-one with another couple is the ability to share in-depth with one another. Relationships are built and community is formed. Large group marriage prep classes are limited in what can be shared and the needs of the engaged couple are never quite known.

Another fruit of the program is that mentor couples have shared how it has blessed their own marriage. Again, back to the “School of Marriage.” Even if you have been married a long time, it's so helpful to get a refresher on these topics!

Is this really a need and are engaged couples really interested?

Engaged couples must complete a marriage prep class (also called pre-Cana). There are multiple options — online, one-day, weekend or mentorship. The engaged couples that are *choosing* mentorship *want* mentorship. Because of the breakdown of marriages in the culture of today, many engaged couples share that they don't even know what a healthy marriage relationship looks like. No

one goes into marriage wanting a future divorce. They want a good marriage, but need living examples to show them that it is possible! Are you still not sure that young couples want this option? I currently have a waiting list of engaged couples in our diocese that are seeking mentors.

Are you open to the idea but need more information?

Thank you for considering becoming a mentor couple! No commitment is needed currently, and I'd love to have the opportunity to share more about the program.

I know that the holidays are upon us, but please send me a quick text or email so that I have your information. We have an upcoming training for mentors on February 9-10 in Fort Mill at St. Philp Neri. I am also very open to coming to your area to talk in person.

God bless you and Happy Thanksgiving!

Natalie Burt

Coordinator of Marriage and Family Ministries

Call & text: 803-899-4946

nburt@charlestdioocese.org