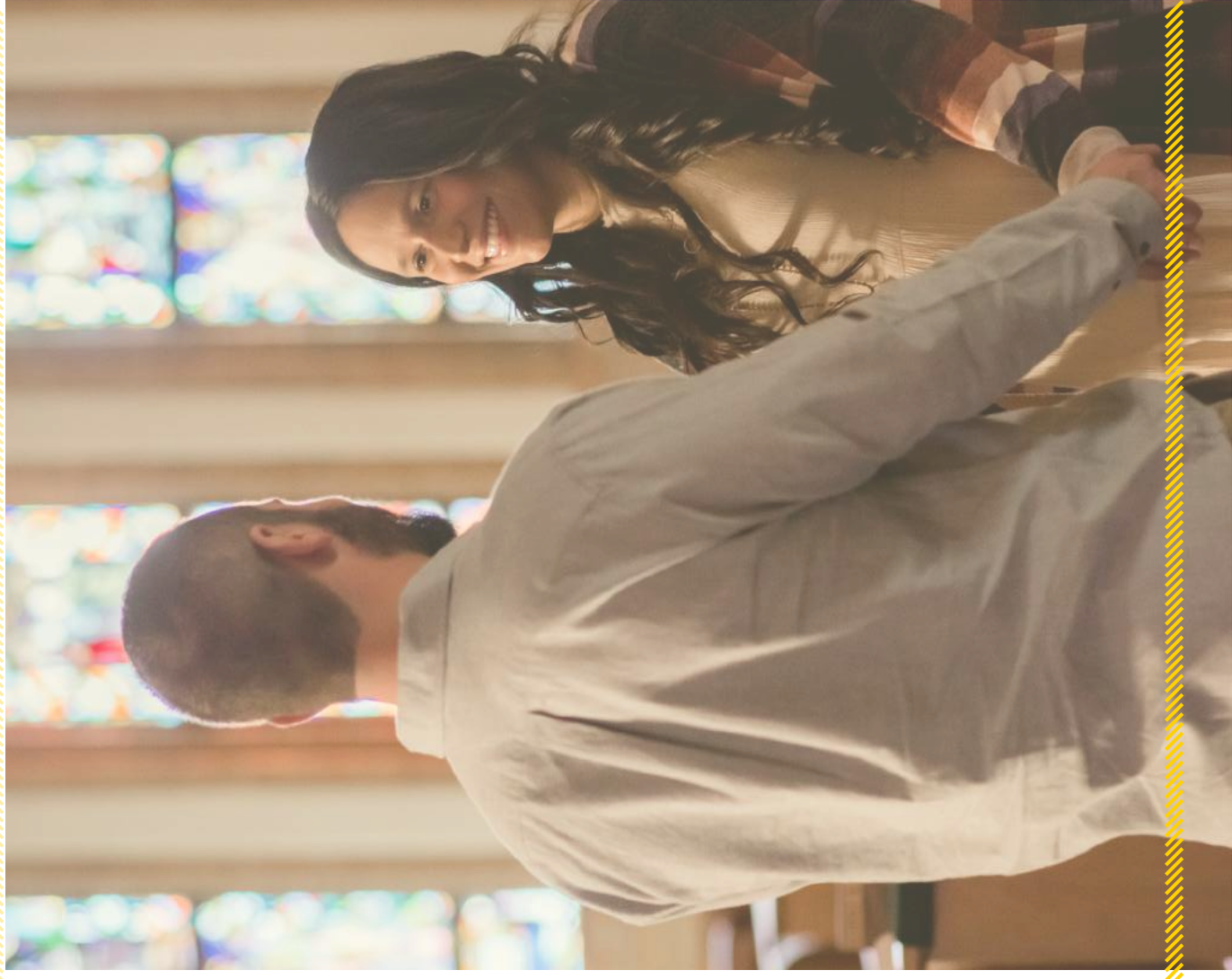


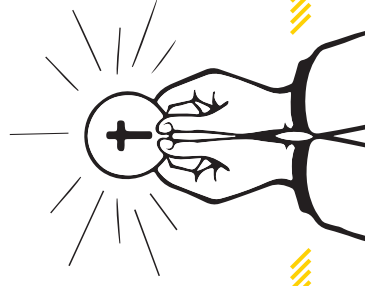
# witness to love

## *Civil Marriage Initiative*

## CIVILLY MARRIED COUPLES JOURNEY TO THE ALTAR GUIDE



- 1** Join the *Witness to Love: Civil Marriage Initiative* movement in the pursuit of a sacramental marriage!
- 2** Meet with your priest or deacon and share the *Witness to Love: Civil Marriage Initiative* About Flyer with him.
  - All resources can be found at [witnessstolove.org/civilmarriage](http://witnessstolove.org/civilmarriage).
- 3** Choose a mentor couple to grow in relationship and journey with throughout your sacramental marriage formation.
  - Your chosen mentor couples should be active in their Church parish and have a marriage that you admire! Find guidelines for choosing your mentor couple at [witnessstolove.org/civilmarriage](http://witnessstolove.org/civilmarriage).
- 4** Order *Witness to Love: Civil Marriage Initiative* materials online at [witnessstolove.org/civilmarriage](http://witnessstolove.org/civilmarriage). Civilly married couples and mentor couples meet monthly for formation using the *Witness to Love: Civil Marriage Initiative* workbook and videos.
  - Couples meet 4 times over 3-6 months; 3 meetings occur prior to the sacramental wedding day and one occurs after.
- 5** Attend a couples retreat!
  - The retreat is optional but highly encouraged, particularly after couples complete Chapter 2 of the workbook. We recommend: An existing parish or diocese's marriage enrichment retreat or *United in Love, United in Christ*.
- 6** Mentor couple hosts civilly married couple and clergy for dinner in their home; Couples discuss the Sacrament of Marriage, friendship, and virtue.
- 7** *Wedding Day!*  
Gift your spouse with the ability to receive the grace of sacramental marriage and God's greatest gift to you both— the Holy Eucharist.





# witness to love

## Civil Marriage Initiative

### CHURCH PARISH STEP BY STEP



Join the *Witness to Love: Civil Marriage Initiative* movement and gift civilly married couples in your parish with an opportunity for a sacramental marriage!



Order the *Witness to Love: Civil Marriage Initiative* Starter Kit at [witnessstolove.org/civilmarriage](http://witnessstolove.org/civilmarriage).

- Parish receives access to the *Witness to Love* App
- Parish receives access to the free Church Promo Kit



Start spreading the word and reaching civilly married couples! Launch a 30-Day Civil Marriage Campaign in your parish using the Church Promo Kit.

- *We recommend:* Launch the 30-Day Civil Marriage Campaign during Lent or September and October.



Host an event at the end of the 30-Day Civil Marriage Initiative Campaign to reach civilly married couples.



Host an Annulment Workshop with the aid of your Diocesan Tribunal (based on need).



Sign up civilly married couples who desire a sacramental marriage and formation through *Witness to Love: Civil Marriage Initiative*.



Order *Witness to Love: Civil Marriage Initiative* materials online at [witnessstolove.org/civilmarriage](http://witnessstolove.org/civilmarriage) for the civilly married couples who sign up.



Schedule and meet individually with each civilly married couple and assist them in choosing a mentor couple with which to journey.



Have your Marriage Prep Coordinator conduct a coaching session with the mentor couple and the civilly married couple.



Civilly married couples and mentor couples meet monthly for formation using *Witness to Love: Civil Marriage Initiative* workbook and videos.

- Couples meet 4 times over 3-6 months; 3 meetings occur prior to the sacramental wedding day and one occurs after.



Host a Couples Retreat!

- The retreat is optional but highly encouraged, particularly after the couples complete Chapter 2 of the workbook.

*We recommend:* An existing parish or diocese's marriage enrichment retreat or *United in Love, United in Christ*.



Mentor couple hosts civilly married couple and clergy for dinner in their home; Couples discuss the Sacrament of Marriage.



## *Wedding Day!*

Gift the civilly married couples with a sacramental marriage! The couple is integrated into the Church parish life and community.



Provide continued accompaniment to the newly wedded couples with the mentor couple and Parish community.

