



Are you and your spouse experiencing a time of difficulty in your relationship?

Do you desire a deeper understanding of God's plan for your marriage?

Are you seeking a more intimate relationship with God and each other?

If you answered **yes** to any of the above, perhaps ***Covenant of Love*** is what you are seeking!

WHAT IS COVENANT OF LOVE MARRIAGE MENTORING?

Covenant of Love Marriage Mentors are trained volunteer couples who accompany other married couples into a deeper understanding and living of the fullness God intended for marriage. Marriage mentoring is a practical couple-to-couple process with the goal of assisting you in your efforts to strengthen your marriage. Mentor couples share their own stories and experiences, along with the teachings of the Catholic Church on marriage, in order to impart to other couples the practical tools needed to better understand and live a healthy marriage relationship. *Covenant of Love* mentoring is not professional counseling nor is it a comprehensive approach to issues or problems facing various married couples. Some couples may need additional professional help. Marriage Mentoring is, rather, a process where an individual or couple is assumed to be able to achieve relationship goals with effective support, information, and guidance. This process is effective for restoring and strengthening only those marriages in which *both* spouses are open to following God's plan for marriage and to put into place the practical tools provided.

SESSIONS

Each of the six mentoring sessions will typically run for 1 to 2 hours. Prior to the session with the mentor couple, you will be asked to watch an online video through the *Covenant of Love* website portal (access will be provided once you have been paired with a mentor). The video will provide the teaching content for the session and will often be followed-up with an exercise for you to complete as a couple before coming to the next session with the mentor couple where you will discuss the content. The process is only effective if you complete it, so we ask you to make a commitment to participate in the entire process, including viewing the online videos, completing the exercises, and attending the sessions with your mentor couple. Each of our Marriage Mentors reserves the time especially for you. Please be respectful of their time and maintain good communication regarding scheduled sessions and any changes that may occur. We ask you to provide 24-hour notice if you cannot keep a scheduled session. However, if an emergency occurs, please contact your mentor couple as soon as possible.

BETWEEN SESSIONS

If you are faced with an immediate challenge between your sessions, please feel free to call your Marriage Mentor. In addition, please email them with questions and updates between sessions and they will do their best to get back to you as soon as possible.

TERMINATION

Termination of services may occur at any time and may be initiated by either the mentee couple or the Marriage Mentor. If you or your spouse wish to terminate the process, we ask that you notify your mentor couple before the next scheduled session and allow for an opportunity to explore the reasons for termination. Mentor couples may tell you they believe you would be better served by someone else.

COUPLE'S RIGHTS

At any time, you may question and/or refuse our Marriage Mentoring procedures or methods, or request any information about the Marriage Mentoring process. Couples are also assured confidentiality. There are, however, important exceptions to confidentiality that are legally mandated. These exceptions include: (1) that we notify relevant others if we believe that an individual has an intention to cause harm to another individual or themselves; (2) that we report any incidence of suspected abuse, neglect, or molestation of minors or the elderly; (3) that we release our records to the court if subpoenaed; (4) that we have consent from both spouses before any information is released at the request of either spouse and/or their respective attorney.

COST

Marriage Mentor couples volunteer their time to journey with other married couples because they are committed to the ministry of strengthening marriages. Their generosity allows us to limit your cost to only covering materials. There is a \$25 per couple materials cost for the entire mentoring process. This allows the Diocese of Davenport to provide materials and resources that can assist you in growing in your marriage. If this cost is a hindrance, please indicate so on the materials fee form so it can be waived. No one will be turned away for the inability to pay for the materials.

REGISTRATION

Go to <https://www.davenportdiocese.org/ff-covenant-of-love> to register for the *Covenant of Love* Marriage Mentoring process and to be paired with a mentor couple. After your registration has been received, someone from the Marriage and Family Life office at the Diocese of Davenport will follow-up with you to pair you with a Marriage Mentor couple who is in your area, provide the materials, grant you access to the *Covenant of Love* website portal where the video content and other resources will be available to you, and answer any questions or concerns you have about the process. Once paired with a mentor couple, the Marriage Mentors will contact you to introduce themselves and make arrangements for sessions.

CONTACT

Please contact Marianne Agnoli, Marriage and Family Life Coordinator, Diocese of Davenport, 563-888-4242 or agnolim@davenportdiocese.org with any questions or concerns.