MARRIAGE MENTORING INFORMATION

Welcome the Covenant of Love Marriage Mentor ministry in the Archdiocese of Dubuque! Please read all of this information carefully and let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We recommend you keep a copy of all documents for your records.

Questions should be directed to: Matt Selby, Director of Marriage and Family Life, Archdiocese of Dubuque, 563-556-2580, ext. 233 or m.selby@dbqarch.org

WHAT IS 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 mentor couple. 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 mentor couple. 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 Archdiocese of Dubuque to provide materials and resources that can assist you in growing in your marriage. If this cost is a hindrance, please indicate so on question 15 of the questionnaire below so it can be reduced or waived. No one will be turned away for the inability to pay for the materials.

REGISTRATION
In order to register for the Covenant of Love Marriage Mentoring process and to be paired with a mentor couple, please fill out and sign the information below, along with submitting payment for the materials fee. After your registration has been received, someone from the Marriage and Family Life office at the Archdiocese of Dubuque 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.

Please send the completed hard copy form with a check for payment (made out to the Archdiocese of Dubuque) to:

Matt Selby
Marriage and Family Life Office
1229 Mt. Loretta Avenue
Dubuque, IA 52003

All information collected will be kept in strict confidence and will only be shared with the marriage mentor couple.
The Marriage Mentoring process cannot begin until this disclaimer is signed by both spouses.

1. Marriage Mentoring is a process that can help people make decisions about how to attain goals that the couple set for themselves.

2. All discussions held as a part of the Marriage Mentoring process will be held in the strictest confidence.

3. Marriage Mentoring is not a form of therapy, nor are Marriage Mentors licensed therapists.

4. No Marriage Mentor couple nor The Archdiocese of Dubuque may be held responsible in any way for any decision a person makes as a result of the mentoring he or she has received.

5. Neither the Marriage Mentor nor The Archdiocese of Dubuque may be held liable in any way for any of the results of any Marriage Mentoring received or any decisions made or any actions taken by any individual or couple as a result of these decisions.

Your signatures on this form indicate that you have read and understand this disclaimer. It also indicates that you are making a voluntary, informed choice to enter a Marriage Mentoring relationship with a self-selected or assigned mentor couple.

Husband’s Signature: ____________________________

Date: __________________

Wife’s Signature: ____________________________

Date: __________________
Marriage Mentoring Intake Form
Please fill out completely and sign

Wife
Name: ____________________________ Age: _______________
Address: __________________________ City/State/Zip: __________________
Phone (include area code) Cell: ________________ Home: ________________
Email: ____________________________________________
Church name: _______________________ Church town: __________________

Husband
Name: ____________________________ Age: _______________
Address: __________________________ City/State/Zip: __________________
Phone (include area code) Cell: ________________ Home: ________________
Email: ____________________________________________
Church name: _______________________ Church town: __________________

Years married: ___________________ Anniversary: ___________________
Age and Gender of Children
________________________________________________________________

Privacy Statement
All personal information collected by The Archdiocese of Dubuque is held in the strictest of confidence. Any information, such as an address, email address, and other contact information is used only to help us keep records and to communicate with the couple. The information will neither be sold nor shared with anyone other than your selected Marriage Mentor Couple.

I have read and understand the Privacy Statement.

Husband’s Signature: ________________________________
Date: ______________________________

Wife’s Signature: ________________________________
Date: ______________________________
QUESTIONNAIRE (Husband)

1. What is your religious affiliation? __________________________
2. If you are Catholic, were you married in the Catholic Church? Y N
3. Do you attend Church regularly? Y N
4. Do you include prayer with your spouse in your daily life? 
   Yes     No
5. Do you read and discuss the Bible or church teachings with your spouse? 
   Yes     No     Somewhat
6. Do you currently use contraception? Y N
7. Do you model healthy marriage behavior to your children? 
   Yes     No     Somewhat     Not Applicable
8. Do you have a healthy balance of work, leisure, and a spiritual life? 
   Yes     No     Somewhat
9. Do you take the time to go out on a date with your spouse monthly (or more)? 
   Yes     No     Somewhat
10. Have you or your spouse ever been treated for a mental illness, personality disorder, 
    anxiety disorder, drug/alcohol addiction, etc.? Please explain:

    11. Have you or your spouse previously participated in any Therapy/Counseling? Y N
    12. If Yes, what kind?

    13. How were you referred to the Covenant of Love Marriage Mentoring Ministry?

    14. Do you have a preference of which mentor couple you would like to be paired with? 
        (see bios and pictures on website)

    15. Do you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the process?
QUESTIONNAIRE (Wife)

1. What is your religious affiliation? ____________________________

2. If you are Catholic, were you married in the Catholic Church?  Y  N

3. Do you attend Church regularly?  Y  N

4. Do you include prayer with your spouse in your daily life?
   Yes  No

5. Do you read and discuss the Bible or church teachings with your spouse?
   Yes  No  Somewhat

6. Do you currently use contraception?  Y  N

7. Do you model healthy marriage behavior to your children?
   Yes  No  Somewhat  Not Applicable

8. Do you have a healthy balance of work, leisure, and a spiritual life?
   Yes  No  Somewhat

9. Do you take the time to go out on a date with your spouse monthly (or more)?
   Yes  No  Somewhat

10. Have you or your spouse ever been treated for a mental illness, personality disorder, anxiety disorder, drug/alcohol addiction, etc.? Please explain:

11. Have you or your spouse previously participated in any Therapy/Counseling?  Y  N

12. If Yes, what kind?

13. How were you referred to the Covenant of Love Marriage Mentoring Ministry?

14. Do you have a preference of which mentor couple you would like to be paired with? (see bios and pictures on website)

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