

# The ENGAGED Learning Process

- ◇ Relationship Assessment
- ◇ Relationship Mentors
- ◇ Marriage Catechesis

## Relationship Assessment—

The Engaged will be asked to complete a series of assessments on a variety of topics related to married love so as to deepen friendship and practice effective communication skills.

## Relationship Mentors—

The Engaged will be assigned three mentor couples with whom they will meet separately to share their relationship stories. One of these couples will be selected as a sponsor couple that will support the Engaged couple until their wedding day.

## Marriage Catechesis –

The Engaged will participate in 12 hours of marriage catechesis divided into two main topics: “Discerning a Catholic Marriage” and “Preparing for a Catholic Marriage.” Each couple will have their engagement blessed at a Sunday Mass.

## Catechist/Educator

Robert Fontana has been married to Lori since 1978; they have six children. Robert has a Masters in Couple and Family Therapy, is licensed as a marriage and family therapist (associate), and has a counseling practice called Relationship Success in W. Seattle. Robert also has a Doctorate of Ministry from the Graduate Theological Foundation.

### Marriage Preparation Dates

- Jan 18 Introduction (6:30-930 p.m.)
- Feb 15 Discerning a Catholic Marriage, Part 1
- Feb 22 Discerning a Catholic Marriage, Part 2
- Feb 26 Blessing of the Engagement (Sunday) 11 a.m. Mass
- Mar 8 Preparing for a Catholic Marriage, Part 1
- Mar 15 Preparing for a Catholic Marriage, Part 2
- Mar 29 Closing potluck/renewal of Baptism

**Place:** St. Edward Church, Seattle, the Chapel and Coffee Rm

**Cost:** \$175per couple

**Make up sessions:** \$60

For more information or to register, please call Vince at the parish office at 206-722-7888.

## St. Edward Marriage Prep ENGAGING The ENGAGED



Sacramental Marriage Catechesis and Relationship Coaching—Preparing Couples for a Lifetime of Success in Christian Marriage and Family Life

A ministerial collaboration between Catholic Life Ministries and St. Edward Catholic Church

## Preparing for Marriage is Worth the Investment!

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Men and women who are in strong marriages have won the “jackpot of life.” Research shows they have many advantages over their single, divorced, and co-habiting counterparts.

- \* Healthier lifestyles
- \* Longer lives
- \* Greater wealth
- \* Satisfying sexual relationships
- \* Children with greater emotional and physical health
- \* Success in the workplace
- \* Responsible citizenship

## Engaged and Preparing for Marriage

The essence of Christian marriage is the public commitment before God and Church of a woman and a man to be faithful to one another, and to love and honor each other over a life-time. This is challenging in today’s world, but not impossible. Couples who succeed in relationships, especially marriage, are those that learn the skills necessary to grow and mature through conflict.

**ENGAGING THE ENGAGED** helps couples preparing for Christian marriage to learn about one another through a series of guided conversations covering topics critical to marriage success.

**ENGAGING THE ENGAGED** teaches couples how to work through the conflicts that will surely come to the relationship. Couples will learn to:

- ◇ *Listen to one another for the sole purpose of understanding each other, rather than to win an argument or solve a problem;*
- ◇ *Speak to each other about difficult topics without hurting one another.*

## The Sacrament of Marriage

Christian marriage is not a private matter between the spouses. It is a public and permanent covenant between spouses, witnessed and blessed by the Church. Couples not only make a commitment to one another but also to the Church. The church minister and community members present, in turn, commit to fully support the newly married in their covenant of life and love.

Christian marriage is a Sacrament because...

- ◇ the newly-married encounter God through their love for each other;
- ◇ the newly-married welcome children as gifts of their love;
- ◇ the newly-married, through their sacrificial love for one another, become a sign and symbol of Jesus’ love for the world.

