

## Sponsor Couple Criteria for Parishes / Priests

Who would make a good Marriage Prep Sponsor Couple?

([Intentional Accompaniment Model](#))

- Sponsor Couples must be **screened at the High Trust Level** through the Parish Screening process. They must be able to work **confidentially** with the engaged couple from a position of **mentorship, fostering growth while respecting the personal boundaries** of each of the Engaged Couple. Sponsor Couples will **decide the location of meetings** with the Engaged Couple - perhaps hosting them in their home, through virtual meeting, at the church rectory, or hall. A public place does not make a good meeting location.
- **The Priest is required to confirm the screening with the Lead Couple by email notification at: [kcdmarriagepreparation@gmail.com](mailto:kcdmarriagepreparation@gmail.com),**
- Both of the Sponsors must be **Practicing Catholics**, with a reasonable understanding and acceptance of church teachings, sponsors might be asked questions (as examples):
  - Why is it important to pray together - how do you do it,
  - What are your views of Natural Family Planning,
  - What is the difference between a Sacramental Wedding and a Civic Marriage,The program will support the Sponsor Couple's understanding of some of these items but they are encouraged to re-direct the Engaged Couple back to their Pastor when a sensitive or difficult matter is encountered above and beyond the scope of the Beloved Program
- The Sponsors must be **living their own Sacramental Marriage for several years** where they have **navigated some challenges and have built strategies for success**,
- The Sponsor Couple are required to complete a **Sponsor Couple Training Session** where they will **familiarize themselves with the Website Resources, Beloved Workbook questions and videos, and think about possible questions that the Engaged Couple** may have.
- The Sponsor Couple must be able to **meet with the engaged couple on 4 occasions for roughly 1.5 hours each** and may be asked to attend the Engaged Couple Retreat. During the COVID19 Pandemic, the Sponsor Couple and the Engaged Couple will decide together how best to meet while following the Local Public Health Rules as well the direction of our ArchDiocese.
- Ideal Sponsor Couples would:
  - Be able to build a trust based relationship with each of the Engaged, removing any awkwardness in the conversations to allow for couple and personal spiritual growth and understanding,
  - Identify areas of strength or needed growth in the Engaged Couple's relationship,
  - Adjust the lens of the questions so that each of the Engaged Couple could grow spiritually,
  - Pray for the Engaged Couple.