# Parish Accompaniment Couple
# Criteria for Parishes / Priests

Who would make a good Marriage Prep Parish Accompaniment Couple?
(Intentional Accompaniment Model)

- Parish Accompaniment 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. Parish Accompaniment Couples will **decide the location of meetings** with the Engaged Couple - likely hosting them in their home, but perhaps meeting through virtual meeting, or 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 KCD Marriage Prep Leadership by email notification at: kcdmarriagepreparation@gmail.com,**
- The Accompaniment Couple must be **living their own Sacramental Marriage for several years** where they have **navigated some challenges and have built strategies for success**,
- The Parish Accompaniment Couple are required to complete a **KCD Marriage Prep Parish Accompaniment 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.
- Both members of the Accompaniment Couple must be **Practicing Catholics,** with a reasonable understanding and acceptance of church teachings, as they 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,

  Our training session will support the Parish Accompaniment 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 Parish Accompaniment Couple must be able to **meet with the engaged couple on 5 occasions for roughly 1.5 hours each** and may be asked to attend the Engaged Couple Retreat. Ideal Parish Accompaniment Couples would:
    - Identify Kerygma based lenses that would focus the engaged couple in their discernment,
    - 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.