

## **Marriage Preparation**

*Information courtesy of the Diocese of St. Cloud Family Life Office.*

A Sponsor Couple is a couple-to-couple ministry in which married couples mentor engaged couples to help them prepare for Christian marriage. The goal is to:

- \* Foster a sense of care and concern to the engaged couples and help them prepare for their commitment within the Church and community.
- \* Explore with the engaged couples issues through the results of the marriage preparation instrument (FOCCUS).
- \* Help the engaged learn to pray together.
- \* Provide engaged couples an opportunity to understand Sacramental Marriage through their own lived experience.

### ***What does the training involve?***

The six-hour training uses many different learning modes; group interaction, lectures and role playing. Some topics are:

- \* Role of the Sponsor Couple
- \* Working Together as a Couple
- \* Using the Relationship Assessment Tool (FOCCUS)
- \* Overview of Marriage Preparation
- \* Marital Spirituality
- \* Special Areas of Concern, i.e. cohabitation, premarital sex, interfaith

### ***Suggested Qualities of a Sponsor Couple***

- \* Believe in marriage as a permanent and faithful commitment.
- \* Belief in God and Church are necessary to a successful relationship.
- \* Are generous, warm and nonjudgmental.
- \* Are realistic and hopeful regarding the day-to-day living of marriage.
- \* Are open-minded and can share their own lived witness of the sacrament.
- \* Have the ability to listen well, reflect back and encourage participation without threatening.
- \* Can be witnesses and companions with the engaged couples in their continued search for a fulfilling and successful marriage.
- \* Have been married for at least three years, are following the teachings of the Catholic Church, and support the diocesan guidelines in preparing couples for marriage.
- \* Endorse and support the teachings of the Church such as birth control, premarital sex, cohabitation, etc.
- \* Understand the principle of confidentiality.

### **Marriage Preparation Sponsor Couples:**

Glen & Deb Klaphake  
Joey & Tricia Klaphake  
Kevin & Karen Wensman  
Ernie & Denise Kociemba  
Ken & Eileen Maus  
Mitch & Mary Depute  
Joe & Audrey Spengler  
Kevin & Ann Viere  
Bernie & Lisa Brixius  
Andy & Judy Heinen  
Chris & Terri Ellering  
Kurt & Mary Schwieters  
John & Cathy Walburn  
Chad & Vicky Doetkott  
Eric & Joann Budde  
Bob & Jan Leukam