**Implementing the New Marriage Formation Guidelines
for the Diocese of Tyler**

**Effective June 3, 2018**

**Getting Started**

The Family Life Office is offering deanery and parish level workshops to help parish teams with the marriage formation program for Engaged and Civilly Married Couples. As you identify your parish team, please contact Deanna Johnston to schedule a live or online workshop: djohnston@stphilipinstitute.org, 903-630-5055 Ext. 120.

**Witness to Love Training for Parish Marriage Formation Team**

* + **Parish Rollout Guide:** [**https://witnesstolove.org/parishes-clergy/parish-rollout-guide/**](https://witnesstolove.org/parishes-clergy/parish-rollout-guide/)
	+ **Esquema de implementación parroquial:** [**https://witnesstolove.org/parishes-clergy/parish-rollout-guide-spanish/**](https://witnesstolove.org/parishes-clergy/parish-rollout-guide-spanish/)
	+ **Decide**: Who do you want on your marriage formation team? Who are the people that will help the engaged couples and their mentors through the formation process?
	***Remember****: Even if you only celebrate convalidations, Witness to Love Civil Marriage Initiative can be used for couples seeking convalidation as well*
	+ **Online training in English AND Spanish is available on the Witness to Love website**: <https://witnesstolove.org/product-category/certification-training/> select Certification course in language of your choice, add to cart, and use **coupon code: dio55 This will make the Training Course $55 instead of $135**. This training should be done by someone on your marriage formation team.
	+ **Order Materials from the Witness to Love website:** [**https://witnesstolove.org/shop/**](https://witnesstolove.org/shop/)
	+ **Witness to Love Parish Support** for ongoing assistance using Witness to Love: parishsupport@witnesstolove.org.

	**Equipo de Apoyo Parroquial** si necesita asistencia mientras transforma su parroquia usando Testimonio de Amor: Daniela@witnesstolove.org

**Complete the Training for the PREPARE-ENRICH Couple Assessment in English or Spanish.**

* + **Decide:** Who is the person/people who will be responsible for reviewing the assessment with the couples? This is the person who needs to complete the training.
	+ Online training is available in English for $65 (discounted from $95) using the coupon code **TylerPE18** at <https://witnesstolove.org/product/catholicpe/>.
	+ Live Training Sessions available in English and Spanish

**The Three to Get Married Marriage Formation Retreat is a required part of the formation process for engaged couples and is strongly recommended for couples seeking convalidation.** Couples should attend this retreat after they have had a few meetings with their mentor couple. Additional information about these retreat weekends and the full schedule for the year can be found on this website**:** [**https://stphilipinstitute.org/three-to-get-married/**](https://stphilipinstitute.org/three-to-get-married/)

 **Natural Family Planning Classes in English and Spanish**Engaged couples are required to take an introductory course (minimum of 1 hour) in a method of NFP as part of their marriage formation. Civilly married couples are also highly encouraged to attend, even if they are past childbearing years. A list of methods as well as the live and online classes that are available are listed on the Family Life website: <https://stphilipinstitute.org/natural-family-planning/>

 **Communication to Parish Community**

**Make necessary updates to your parish bulletin and website.**

* + Change the language from “Marriage Preparation” to “**Marriage Formation**”
	+ Note the required formation time for engaged couples has changed from 6 months to **9-12 months.**
	+ Request “Formation for Holy Matrimony” pamphlets from the Family Life Office (Available in English and Spanish)
	+ Follow Witness to Love Parish Roll out Guide

**Formation Guidelines for Couples Seeking Convalidation**

* + This applies to couples who have been civilly married for 3+ years
	+ Flexibility in the process, recommended formation time is 3-6 months
	+ Formation for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is still necessary.
	+ Witness to Love Mentor program for convalidations is strongly recommended