

# CATHOLIC MARRIAGE PREPARATION SMARTLOVING ENGAGED ONLINE



## CONTENTS

- [2 | In a Nutshell](#)
- [3 | Overview](#)
- [5 | Marriage](#)  
[Catechumenate](#)
- [6 | Parish Sponsor](#)  
[System](#)
- [10 | Building a](#)  
[Marriage Ministry](#)

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*Online  
learning*



*Quality  
curriculum*



*Easy to  
Administer*



*Theology  
of the Body*

## IN A NUTSHELL

- Nine lessons, 1.5 hours duration
- Fully online learning
- Approved curriculum
- All enrolments include free access for a Sponsor Couple (optional uptake)
- Additional online resources including Wedding Liturgy Planner

SmartLoving Engaged is used in a number of dioceses in Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, USA and Asia.



## EDUCATE AND INSPIRE YOUR COUPLES!

**Engaged Online** leads couples through a comprehensive experience that educates, inspires and deepens their relationship. Engaged and Sponsor couples love the flexibility of the online delivery and our course report provides the celebrant with detailed feedback on their understanding of Catholic marriage.

## QUALITY PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

Designed for participation over several months, Engaged Online is a timely response to synod calls for a 'marriage catechumenate'; a period of preparation rather than an 'event'.

- Comprehensive curriculum of nine lessons features a powerful integration of practical relationship skills with Catholic theology.
- Quality video featuring expert insights and couple testimonies.
- Student participation is ensured by time trackers, end of lesson quizzes, and a final assessment.
- Parish married couples optionally accompany the engaged as Sponsors supporting them and enriching their own marriage.



# CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

- 1 | Mission to Love.** The science and theology of love. The role of affirmation.
- 2 | Dialogue: Being One.** Communication skills to build intimacy.
- 3 | Knowing Me - Knowing You.** Family of Origin. Forgiveness and emotional injuries.
- 4 | Building Unity.** Couple decision making strategies.
- 5 | Restoring Unity.** Arguments and Reconciliation.
- 6 | Sex - Sacred Embrace.** The Theology of Sex.
- 7 | Love Gives Life.** Fertility awareness introduction. Family planning decisions.
- 8 | A Living Sign.** The Sacrament of Matrimony. Marriage Saboteurs.
- 9 | Soul Mates for Life.** Spirituality. Wedding Vows. Couple Prayer.

For more detail, visit: [www.smartloving.org/engaged](http://www.smartloving.org/engaged)



# THE MARRIAGE CATECHUMENATE IN YOUR PARISH

- Enrol engaged couples at the time of booking the wedding so they can immediately begin their preparation for Catholic marriage.
- Each Engaged enrolment includes a gift coupon for one free enrolment to the Sponsor course giving them the option of having a married Sponsor Couple accompany them.
- Sponsor Couples need no training however they should be validly married in the Church at least five years, regular Mass attendees and not a close relative or friend of the engaged couple.
- If a Sponsor Couple is not available, the engaged can do the course without one as the online platform fully explains each activity and guides couples every step of the way.
- In both cases, at the conclusion of the course the celebrant will receive a course report detailing the engaged couple's learning.

*SmartLoving Engaged Online is the same curriculum as our acclaimed face-to-face course and used in a number of dioceses in Australia, New Zealand, Great Britain, USA and Asia. It has been reviewed with favourable feedback by the Pontifical Council of the Family.*



# THE PARISH SPONSOR SYSTEM

Couples are accompanied by a married couple from the parish as they work their way through the course



1.

## INITIAL MEETING & ENROLMENT

The Priest/Deacon meets with the engaged couple to complete the paper work, book the church and enrol them in Engaged Online.

Once enrolled, arrange for the engaged to meet their Sponsor Couple who also enrolls in the course if they are doing it for the first time.

**Each enrolment in the engaged course includes a gift coupon for the sponsor couple so there is no expense to the Sponsors.**



2.

## COURSE PARTICIPATION

Sponsor and engaged couples complete the course lesson by lesson, meeting up for dynamic conversation using the discussion guide provided.

**Sponsors can access tips and support materials from the Resource Hub**







## GRADUATION & FOLLOW UP MEETING

Once the engaged couple has completed the last lesson, they complete the final assessment and SmartLoving will prepare their Course Report.

Couples and clergy meet to review the Course Report and discuss what they have learnt.



## THE WEDDING & NEWLYWED YEARS

In addition to the ongoing support SmartLoving offers through the Member Hub, Sponsor Couples provide a local support network throughout the newly-wed years encouraging continued association with the parish.



# TIPS FOR BUILDING A MARRIAGE MINISTRY *IN YOUR PARISH*



1. **Encourage Mass attendance** by the engaged and make your wedding ministry more visible to the parish by presenting engaged couples to the community at key points such as:
  - a. the beginning of their marriage catechumenate (betrothal),
  - b. at completion of the course (graduation),
  - c. the week before their wedding.
  - d. on their first wedding anniversary.
  
2. **Sponsor-engaged meetings** can be anywhere but are preferably in the Sponsor Couple's home. Sponsor couples can encourage engaged couples to attend Mass by meeting immediately before or afterwards for their discussions.
  
3. **Build a support network** for the couple accessible during the high-risk newly-wed years by encouraging ongoing contact with Sponsor Couples.



4. **Enrich your married parishioners** by calling them to be Sponsor Couples. Recruit them by:
  - a. briefing the community regularly
  - b. inviting existing Sponsors to give a testimony
  - c. inviting newly-wed graduates once they've reached 5 years of marriage
5. **Debrief with the engaged and their Sponsors** after the course using the Course Reports to discuss their experience. Encourage ongoing involvement in marriage ministry.
6. **Encourage Sponsor Couples to meet regularly** to support and coach each other.



7. **Appoint suitable leaders** from among your Sponsor Couples to coordinate the Marriage Catechumenate and build a marriage ministry.
  
8. **Consolidate and expand the marriage network** with regular gatherings and events to build community and continue their formation such as:
  - a. St Valentine's day Mass and dinner
  - b. Marriage Sunday/Week celebration
  - c. Encouraging small group courses
  - d. Hosting a guest speaker
  - e. Advertising external marriage events

