



CATHOLIC MARRIAGE PREPARATION

SMARTLOVING ENGAGED ONLINE

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 featuring a powerful integration of Catholic theology with practical relationship skills and fertility education.
- 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.

✓
*Online
learning*

✓
*Quality
curriculum*

✓
*Easy to
Administer*

✓
*Theology of
the Body*

IN A

NUTSHELL

- Nine lessons, 1.5 hours duration
- Fully online learning
- Imprimatur granted
- All enrolments include free access for a Sponsor Couple (optional uptake)
- Additional online resources including Wedding Liturgy Planner and Fertility Awareness Instruction course

GRADUATE IMPACT STATISTICS *

Willing to abstain from sex until the wedding

85%

Open to using Fertility Awareness Methods

94%

Open to Reconciliation before the wedding

90%

...(or a blessing if non-catholic)

72%

Interest in becoming a Catholic (of non-catholics)

20%



www.SmartLoving.org/Parish

Be Part of the Marriage Renaissance



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 parish 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.
- » 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.
- » Parish Sponsor Couples also provide a spontaneous support network for the couple during the high-risk newlywed years.
- » 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.

*Derived from graduate feedback of the entire 2017 cohort (770 participants).
For more detail, visit www.smartloving.org/parish



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THE PARISH SPONSOR SYSTEM

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 Sponsor 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 receive tips and support via email as they progress through the course and can access additional materials from the Resource Hub



3.

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 & NEWLY-WED 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.

Download a detailed guide for setting the Sponsor system in your parish from the SL website.



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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. **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 of their experience
 - c. inviting newly-wed graduates once they've reached 5 years of marriage
3. **Appoint suitable leaders** from among your Sponsor Couples to coordinate the Marriage Catechumenate and build a marriage ministry.
4. **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 - live or online gatherings
 - d. Hosting a guest speaker
 - e. Advertising external marriage events

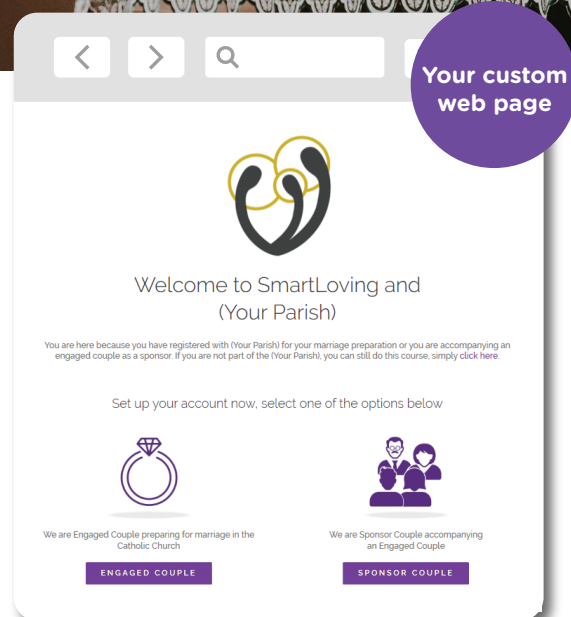


PARISH PACKAGE AVAILABLE

Operating under the principle of 'centrally-enabled, locally-delivered', our online learning system equips parishes to provide quality marriage preparation from within their parish. While we manage your registrations and provide the course and support resources online, you stay connected to your engaged couples through minimum effort.

Packages include a custom page on our website with your parish logo/crest and weekly notifications to keep track of your enrolments and student progress.

Our single purchase course is already one of the best value offerings globally. With a parish package you can save even more (up 63%) enabling you to capture those savings to cover your expenses and subsidise couples in financial hardship.



FOR MORE INFO VISIT:

 www.SmartLoving.org/Packages