

## Emmaus Initiative and Formation Plan 2023

Couples will be given formation to learn how to adopt more of an *Apostolic Mindset* and *Biblical Worldview* so they can intentionally follow engaged couples with the goal of leading them to an *Initial Conversion*. The Emmaus Initiative will use a model of intentional accompaniment to *Witness, Proclaim, Equip, and Commission* engaged couples so they can be given the opportunity to become *Missionary Disciples* for the church in this apostolic age that we are currently living.

*Emmaus* (mentor) *couples* will be formed so they can grow in confidence to build *Trust*, and present opportunities, so engaged couples can grow in *curiosity* about the Catholic faith, and to lead engaged couples to an *openness* and *seeking* about what life and how a relationship with Jesus is seen as vital to flourish in their lives and marriage.

Holy Mother Church possesses the beautiful truth of marriage and throughout her history has shown that what she teaches enables those entering marriage to have a joy-filled life. Today many engaged couples have not had the opportunity to encounter the person of Jesus Christ. For whatever reason couples who approach the church to seek marriage must now be seen as a wonderful chance to share the Good News (*the kerygma*) so that they can live life abundantly. Our challenge today is to answer this lack of religious formation and to accept that “marriage prep” can no longer be informational, but catechumenal, a journey of discipleship.

The *Emmaus accompaniment Initiative* strives to respond to the world today by offering formation for couples who work with engaged couples to grow in the joy of being a *new generation of builders* of God’s kingdom in this world today. We will endeavor to this by giving opportunities for each *builder* to grow in authenticity with their Christian life and equip them with tools to intentionally accompany and disciple engaged couples to an initial or deeper conversion towards Christ.

### **Formation plan Fall 2023: 9 AM – 5 PM**

- **9/30/23**
  - Session One: Apostolic Mindset, Biblical worldview (Adopting them and living it out)
- **10/14/23**
  - Session Two: Praying as disciples.
- **10/28/23**
  - Session Three: Living in this world but not of the world (A call to holiness)
- **11/11/23**
  - Session Four: Intentional accompaniment PT I (Adopting them and living it out)
- **TBD**
  - Session Five: Intentional accompaniment PT II (Adopting them and living it out)
- **12/9/23**
  - Session Six: TBD (*Potentially a day of retreat*)

Those involved in the formation will also be taking part in the “Rescue Project” in small groups either via zoom or in regions.

**Materials used:**

- **Book:** Intentional Accompaniment: An Apprenticeship for a New Generation of Builders.
- **Video series:** The Rescue Project, Fr. John Riccardo: Acts XXIX

**Cost for the six sessions**

- \$125 per person, (covers materials and food for each day)

**Emmaus formation Program for the day and group work in Between**

**Saturdays 9 AM – 5 PM**

- 9 AM: **Welcome and prayer**
- 9:30 AM: **Module one** (*this may involve small group work and with possible Q&A*)
- 10:30 AM: **Break**
- 10:45 AM: **Module two** (*this may involve small group work and with possible Q&A*)
- 11:45 AM: **Lunch** (box lunch)
- 1:00 PM: **Module Three** (*this may involve workshopping and applying content in a practical way*)
- 2:00 PM: **Break**
- 2:15 PM: **Module Four** (*this may involve workshopping and applying content in a practical way*)
- 3:15 PM: **Break**
- 3:30 PM: **Module Five** (*this may involve workshopping and applying content in a practical way*)
- 4:30 PM: **Wrap up and debrief** (*review and planning for the coming week*)
- 4:50 PM: **Prayer and Close**



## Small Group work outside of formation days

### The Rescue Project Video Series Fr. John Riccardo: Acts XXIX

*(Free PDF. download available in English and Spanish)*

#### Episodes 1-9:

- Week. One: 1,2
- Week. Two: 3,4
- Week. Three: 5,6
- Week. Four: 7,8
- Week. Five 9

Small groups will be organized geographically and can be held in-person or virtually.

- Nominate a group facilitator.
- Watch videos as a group together, live, or before each meeting if you meet virtually.
- Read session material from PDF. And be ready to discuss it in your small group.
- [Run - the RESCUE project](#)
- Pray for each member of your small group.

