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Preparation for your wedding day is well underway!

While many engaged couples look to the Church to help plan the wedding ceremony, the Church is even more excited to help couples experience fulfilling marriages...which lasts long after the wedding ceremony is over! Thus, the next three steps in your marriage preparation will focus on you and your relationship together:

1. Meeting your Sponsor Couple: Both of you will receive emails from FOCCUS, Inc. (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding & Study) within the next week or two. Please use the link and password in the email to access a survey. In order for this to be helpful to you, it is important for you to be honest, to work on this separately, and to limit the number of times you select "Uncertain"...unless it truly is the best response. MMOC will automatically be notified when both of you have completed the survey. Within a week or two, a Sponsor Couple from MMOC will contact you and set an initial time to meet with you. Feel free to begin sharing your responses with each other once you've both completed the survey!
2. Marriage Prep Weekend: The covenant of marriage is at the heart of your future together and the Marriage Prep Weekend will focus on this. The parishes in the La Crosse Deanery collaborate to host this event. If you have conflicts with the scheduled opportunities, we can offer additional suggestions.
3. Natural Family Planning (NFP) Online Classes: The fruitful love of marriage leads to the creation of families. Making decisions on when and how many children to have in marriage is a sacred responsibility that God has entrusted to husband and wife. NFP is an umbrella term for certain methods used both to achieve and avoid pregnancies. You will learn practical information from this online course which takes 40 days to complete effectively. You're encouraged to begin this after the Marriage Prep Weekend. If you would like to take classes in the La Crosse area which are not online, the Center for Women's Health (Mayo Clinic Health System) offers classes which are aligned with Natural Law and Catholic teaching.

After completed these three steps, please contact your presider – Deacon Richard Sage (608-317-5584; rsage@mmoclacrosse.org) or me (608-788-5483 ext. 7; frkonopa@mmoclacrosse.org) – to set up a meeting in which we will...

1. Review the progress you've made.
2. Complete the pre-nuptial paperwork.
3. Discuss the wedding ceremony...

Yes, we will also focus on the wedding ceremony! We look forward to helping you plan a joyful celebration of your committed love in the Sacrament of Marriage. Included in this packet are the Wedding Guidelines and all the information needed to plan your wedding. A wedding needs a lot of attention, but we trust you will also put a lot of energy into strengthening your future together by focusing on your relationship – with each other and with God.

Yours in Christ,

Father Konopa