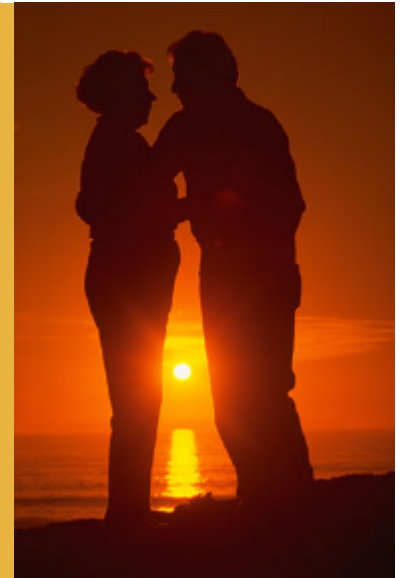




# Covenant OF LOVE

A parish-based marriage ministry  
to help build and enrich  
Christ-Centered Marriages



## What is it?

Created by The Alexander House, the *Covenant of Love Marriage Ministry* is more than a ministry; it is a call to action, an initiative, and a resource offered to parishes designed to strengthen marriage ministries or to help build a foundation to create one. The *Covenant of Love Marriage Ministry* works to educate, strengthen, promote, and advocate the splendor and truth of God's plan for marriage.

### Couples Need Help

Christ teaches us in Matthew 19:6 that a married couple is "no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate." But marriage is hard, and too often, couples receive little or no help from their local parish. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops reported that a majority of married couples show a real desire for more marriage enrichment and educational activities at the parish or diocesan level, such as adult faith formation classes, support groups, retreats, and mentoring for couples who are experiencing difficulties in their marriages.

### Our Response

Long before these responses were made, The Alexander House was already piloting what has become known as the *Covenant of Love Marriage Ministry*. For the past 9 years the Alexander House, has helped hundreds of couples reconcile and has assisted them in living out joy-filled marriages and saw a need for a parish-based marriage ministry. Their approach has been called, by others, the practical applications of Theology of the Body; it combines theology, psychology, and lived experience to strengthen, sustain, and restore marriages.

*Pope John Paul II insisted that the "pastoral intervention of the Church in support of the family is a matter of urgency." He called attention to three stages of marital preparation and also recognized the need for pastoral care after marriage. He entrusted the mission of marriage education to the Church community (especially the parish), the family (in itself and by ministering to other families), and associations of families.*  
(Familiaris Consortio, 65-72)