



## Benefits

### The Church

In providing a Covenant of Love ministry, each local church can demonstrate their awareness of the importance of the Sacrament of Marriage.

The Church also shows that it advocates Christ's teachings and accepts God's plan for marriage.

Since Christ teaches in Matthew 19:6 that a married couple is "no longer two, but one flesh" and "what God has joined together, no human being must separate," the Church will be a helper in defending marriage by reducing divorces.

By having a Covenant of Love Ministry, the Church also becomes a God-centered resource for marriage enrichment and education, providing assistance to any couple, whether they simply wish to strengthen their relationship, or are seeking help to fix it.

Since the Covenant of Love is a volunteer program, there will be no need to hire outside assistance for marriage counseling.

### The Lay People

In any parish where there is a Covenant of Love ministry, the laity will have place to go for marriage education and enrichment opportunities, provided by and located at their local parish.

A couple is taught to encourage each other, and to help each other find and participate in activities they enjoy.

Lay people are also given a good opportunity fulfill their role as set forth in Vatican II.

Covenant of Love will also encourages couples to work with others, in order to help build strong marriages within their community.

Covenant of Love will also encourage families with children to teach them about marriage.

### A Relational Ministry

Covenant of Love seeks to build strong relationships. The goal of the ministry is to create an atmosphere where couples can come together and strengthen their marriages. But Covenant of Love also wants to build a strong relationship with it's member parishes. Through a Covenant of Love subscription, a member parish will receive:

1. An informational binder for your parish to start the ministry
2. An annual packet of information that will include exciting and educational resources to keep the marriage ministry alive in your parish.
3. Ongoing phone and email support
4. Prayer support through The Alexander House prayer ministry – a ministry of people around the country praying for your parish and your ministry.
5. Discounts on products and services, such as:
  - the Annual Leadership Conference offering an opportunity to pray, celebrate and learn the depths of God's plan for marriage through His Church,
  - future training fees (i.e. Marriage Disciples),
  - 10% off resources purchased as a group from all Alexander House resources.

