

## Chad and Raquel Tripp - Bio

Chad and Raquel Tripp have been married 29 years and have been in service to marriages since their first call in 2001. They serve as marriage coaches and speakers, marriage enrichment ministers, relationship skills educators, and marriage ministry consultants. Their service is performed under the [MissionariesofMarriage.org](http://MissionariesofMarriage.org) banner. They recently founded ourMarriageCoach LLC which offers Christo-centric relationship coaching for couples and families.



### About Chad

Chad is a Catholic convert who grew up in Tennessee in an unchurched household and was finishing up his Master's degree when God crossed his path with Raquel's. Committed to marrying Raquel and entering the Catholic faith, Chad left his new career and emigrated to Raquel's country of Ecuador. Though he didn't speak Spanish and he had no job prospects, God blessed them with their first two children within 2 years as well as sufficient work to make ends meet. They made it work with God leading the way. After 16 years of marriage ministry work within the Church, God called him and Raquel to go out into the mission field and to train and encourage other Catholic couples to offer pastoral care to couples and families in the peripheries. Chad holds a MS in Computer Information Systems from MTSU and a MA in Pastoral Studies with a concentration in Pastoral Counseling from Holy Apostles College and Seminary.

### About Raquel

Raquel is a cradle Catholic from Quito, Ecuador. While in the USA completing graduate school, she experienced the tragic loss of her best friend, her 26-year-old sister. In the wake of the loss, she decided to return to Mother Church with renewed fervor. There she found a deep sense of love and security. It was during this period that she met Chad. Though he was a 'None', she felt a strong desire for Chad to embrace the faith. Raquel's reversion continued through her service to marriages and as a stay-home mom who was grateful and inspired by the Catholic teachings that her children would bring home each day during their Catholic school education. Raquel holds a MBA in Marketing from MTSU and a MA in Pastoral Studies with a concentration in Marriage and Family from Holy Apostles College and Seminary.

# Ministry Backgrounder

Chad and Raquel were called to couple-to-couple relationship coaching in 2017 during a marriage retreat weekend at Marywood Retreat Center in St. Johns, Florida. This particular retreat weekend was extra special because they returned to the place where they received their call to marriage ministry. It was in 2001, five years into their marriage at their first marriage retreat, where they were asked to join a new marriage ministry called the Diocesan Marriage Renewal. After considering their family situation, two young children, pregnant with the third, no immediate family to assist them, they gave their ‘yes’ to God knowing that He will provide. Then-Bishop Galeone commissioned them as Marriage Enrichment Ministers in January of 2002 and they began to speak at weekend retreats and, at the request of the bishop, they joined another bilingual couple to offer a one-day version of the retreat to migrant workers in rural areas of the diocese. Over the next 15 years, they followed God’s call to support married couples, both English and Spanish-speaking, in their diocese as well as other dioceses in the Southeast USA and in Ecuador. The timing of the 2017 retreat coincided with the completion of their term as the Southeast Region Responsible Couple for the Teams of Our Lady international marriage movement and heavy on their hearts was the question, “what’s next?”

Upon exchanging their final ‘love letters’ of the 2017 retreat weekend, they couldn’t hold back their tears and fears as they read a calling common in both letters, to take courage and venture outside of the protected walls of Catholic-centric retreats and movements and be missionaries of marriage to all, especially the Nones.

Within weeks of this call, they were asked to join a Christian non-profit called Live the Life Ministries which is dedicated to relationship skill education for marriages. This organization had received a sizable grant with a mission to reduce the divorce rate in Duval County, FL. Raquel was offered full-time employment as a Marriage Ministry Consultant charged with collaborating with both Catholic parishes and protestant churches to achieve this grant’s objective. This mission exposed them to couples of all beliefs and over time they began to accept requests to provide couple-to-couple coaching to couples in distress.

Today, Chad and Raquel are missionary disciples who humbly and lovingly meet couples where they are and they ask the Holy Spirit to work through them to provide the couples with wise counsel to inform their intellect, authentic witness to soften their hearts, lightheartedness to lighten their load and encourage their will, and ultimately God’s grace to transform them.

## Ministry Bio Details

- Married in 1996 in Guapulo Parish in Quito, Ecuador; returned to the USA in 1998
- Attended Marriage Encounter in 2001
- Commissioned Marriage Enrichment Minister in 2002 by then-Bishop Galeone; presenting couple for Diocesan Marriage Renewal (DMR) weekend retreats in the Diocese of St. Augustine, Florida
- Joined Teams of Our Lady Marriage Movement in 2006

- Family (Chad, Raquel, Samuel, Anna, and Sandra) moved back to Quito, Ecuador from 2007 to 2009
  - Presenting Team Couple for San Pedro de Conocoto's Marriage Prep Ministry - monthly weekend retreat of 15+ couples
  - Helped establish Teams of Our Lady at San Pedro de Conocoto Parish; 2 teams formed
- Appointed Responsible Couple for Jacksonville Sector of Teams of Our Lady in 2012
- Appointed Marriage Preparation Mentors and Family Life Coordinators for Resurrection Parish starting in 2014; Raquel certified as "Prepare/Enrich" Facilitator
- Appointed Responsible Couple for Southeast USA Region of Teams of Our Lady in 2014
- Received missionary call to support all couples, even Nones and the unchurched, in 2017
- Raquel appointed Marriage Ministry Consultant for Live the Life Ministries in 2018
- Raquel served as Marriage-Building Coordinator for Diocese of St. Augustine - coordinated marriage training and events in support of Culture of Freedom Initiative (COFI) that contributed to 24% reduction in Divorce Rate in Duval County, FL
- Raquel led Marriage Ministry Formation Pilot program in 2019/20 - objective was to form self-sustaining/vibrant Marriage Ministries in 5 distinct parishes; developed a Marriage Ministry Formation Training curriculum
- Led Marriage Coach Pilot program in 2020 - trained 4 English speaking Coaching couples and 4 Spanish speaking Coaching Couples; developed a Marriage Coaching Training curriculum
- Raquel served as Marriage Ministry Consultant for Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee in 2021 - coordinated marriage training and events in support of US Dept of Health and Human Services grant
- Kicked off **Missionaries of Marriage** in 2022, a prayerful endeavor that encourages Catholics couples to more fully experience the mystery and beauty of their Domestic Church. To help them take courage and share God's graces with those closest to where they are: their neighbors and work. To be co-workers of the truth and servants of unity for church and unchurched couples.
- Currently,
  - Marriage Ministry Consultants for various Parishes in the Diocese of St. Augustine, FL
  - Liaison Couple/Interim Responsible for Jacksonville Sector of Teams of Our Lady
  - Speakers on Marriage and Domestic Church - for high school, campus ministry, young professional, and parish ministry groups
    - Developed presentation series for parents called "Domestic Church - In Progress"
    - Developed family retreat for Catholic families called "Become What Your Are"

- Coach to couples in distress
- Coach/Mentor for engaged couples
- Rolling out a couples' monthly small group series called "Tandem Teams" that was piloted in 2023, currently running in 3 parishes 1 in English and 2 in Spanish
- Raquel is Trainer/facilitator for relationship education program called "Real Essentials" - for middle and high school, campus ministry
- Facilitators and Coach trainers for relationship education program called "Adventures in Marriage" for engaged and married couples
- Trained to facilitate a family retreat called "Family Frontiers"
- Graduates of Holy Apostles College and Seminary 2025
  - Chad - MAPS Pastoral Counseling
  - Raquel - MAPS Marriage and Family
- Founded **ourMarriageCoach LLC** in 2025 - Christo-centric relationship coaching for couples and families