

Marriage Preparation Checklist Diocese of Orlando

Congratulations and blessings on your engagement! As you prepare for Marriage in the Church, be sure your priorities are in proper order. Your wedding is only one day; your marriage is a lifetime.

A) INITIAL CONTACT WITH PRIEST

- Between 6 to 12 months prior to your anticipated wedding date, make an appointment with your parish priest or deacon for the initial meeting to discuss the preparation process, even if they will not be the ones celebrating your wedding. If you are getting married out of state or at another parish, provide your priest or deacon the following: name and address of the parish where the wedding will take place, celebrant's name, and wedding date.
- With priest or deacon fill in Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire (Form A).
- Establish future meetings with the priest or deacon.
- Supply your priest or deacon with a new copy of your certificate of Baptism dated within six months (obtainable from the parish where you were baptized).

B) PRE-MARITAL INVENTORY

- Take the FOCCUS or Fully Engaged inventory.
- Meet with a facilitator couple assigned by your parish to review the FOCCUS or Fully Engaged inventory.

C) MARRIAGE PREPARATION CLASS

- Attend a Marriage Preparation Class (either diocesan or parish communities) such as Pre Cana, Parish Based, Weekend Retreat, Convalidation or Remarriage. To register, go to <http://www.orlandodiocese.org/ministries-offices/marriage-preparation>

D) NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING (OPTIONAL)

- Learn the facts about Natural Family Planning (NFP) and attend a class to learn how to use it. (Details available on the website: <http://www.orlandodiocese.org/ministries-offices/family-life>)

E) DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE PRE-NUPTIAL FILE (PRIOR TO THE WEDDING)

- Certificate of Baptism for each Catholic party (less than six months old).
- Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire (Form A). (Couple with priest or deacon).
- Letter of Freedom to Marry (Form B) – two witnesses each (preferably parents or relatives) for bride and groom. (Forms will be given to the couple by the priest or deacon).
- Death Certificate of previous spouse or Annulment Decree if you were previously married.
- Canonical Dispensations and Permissions (if necessary; priest or deacon will fill it out).
- Certificate of Participation from the marriage preparation class. (Couple will receive it at the class).
- Marriage License from the County Clerk of Court (the license is good for 60 days; do not obtain one earlier than necessary). Visit your county's web site for more information.

F) PLANNING YOUR WEDDING LITURGY / FOLLOW UP MEETING

- Meet with your priest, deacon or wedding coordinator to plan your wedding.
- Using the *Together for Life* book, select Scripture readings, prayers, petitions, etc.
- Meet with the music director to discuss the music for your liturgy.
- Schedule wedding rehearsal with the church.
- Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (if Catholic) prior to your marriage.