

# *"The First Step to the Altar"*

The Sacrament of Marriage is a calling from God. By it, He infuses His grace into the lives of husbands and wives and this "First Step" will help organize your preparation for holy matrimony.

Bride	Groom
_____	Name _____
_____	Address _____
_____	Address _____
_____	Phone _____

Contact your parish church or the church where the wedding is to take place if you need assistance in asking a priest or deacon to perform the ceremony.

## Meeting with Priest or Deacon

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (print name and phone #),  
a priest/deacon have met with the couple named above. We have discussed:

- the uniqueness of the bond of marriage as a sacrament (to be reiterated at final meeting)
- their canonical freedom from any prior bond of marriage
- a preliminary date for the ceremony
- which Marriage Preparation Program is best for the couple. In order of preference, these programs are: *Mentor Couple Program, Engaged Encounter Weekend, Days for the Engaged, Other*
- which priest/deacon will complete the Pre-Nuptial Inquiry, and officiate at the ceremony (see box below); which priest/deacon/lay marriage preparation minister will oversee their marriage preparation process, administer and analyze the Pre-Marital Inventory,

The couple named above has agreed to complete their Marriage Preparation Program **two months in advance of the ceremony**.

•Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_

•Date of Ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_

•Date by which Marriage Preparation Program must be completed: \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_

Signature of above priest/deacon: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Officiating Cleric

Father/Deacon \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) will be officiating at the ceremony.

Place of ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Time of ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_

Signature of officiant: \_\_\_\_\_ phone # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

*Note to officiant: This form does not constitute canonical delegation to officiate at this ceremony.*

Officiant may initial here to request delegation from the canonical pastor.

Understand that some pastors grant delegation only upon submission of all required documents.

Upon completion of the above, and not before, a couple may either reserve a church or confirm their prior reservation of a church with a monetary deposit. This form does not absolutely bind the parish or the officiant to the ceremony date listed above if a canonical prohibition or other impediment to marriage is discovered.