



## Marriage Preparation for the Diocese of Venice in Florida

### THIS PACKET INCLUDES:

- Marriage Preparation Guidelines for the Diocese of Venice in Florida
- Check List for Marriage Preparation (for Priest)
- Liturgical Guidelines for the Sacrament of Matrimony
- Premarital Inventory Information – FULLY ENGAGED
- Certificate of Completion Form\* - Updated
- Canonical Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire\* (“Formerly Form A”) - Updated
- Affidavit Concerning the Freedom to Marry\* (“Formerly Form B”) – Updated
- Matrimonial Dispensation or Permission Form
- Information on Sacramentality Workshop (God’s Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage).
- Information on the Life Skills Workshop (Living a Joy-filled Marriage).
- Information on the Convalidation Workshop.

\* Also available online at [www.dioceseofvenice.org/forms](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/forms) under Tribunal & Marriage Preparation.

### Other materials:

- 10 Marriage Preparation Brochures from Family Life Outreach.
- 20 Marriage Preparation Cards with schedule website information
- Two suggested brochures that can be ordered from Ascension Press.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Family Life Coordinator,  
Kim Elsmore by calling (941) 486-4748 or email  
[elsmore@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:elsmore@dioceseofvenice.org).



## DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

### Office of Evangelization

### Marriage Preparation Guidelines for the Diocese of Venice in Florida

1. Notification of the Parish Priest
  - a. In order to allow sufficient time to carry out the process of marriage preparation, it is necessary for a couple to contact their parish priest at least six months prior to the anticipated time of their wedding.
  - b. No firm date for a wedding should be set until it is shown that the couple has no impediments to be married in the Catholic Church.
  - c. The Pastor of the parish where the wedding will take place must see to it that the couple has been properly prepared according to the guidelines of the Diocese of Venice.
2. Premarital Inventory
  - a. A Premarital Inventory (PMI) is given to each couple preparing for marriage. The results of the PMI should be reviewed with the priest or deacon shortly after completion. This is not a test but an assessment that aids the priest in discussing sensitive issues that need to be addressed before the couple receives the Sacrament of Marriage.
  - b. Premarital Inventories that can be used in the Diocese of Venice:
    - i. Fully Engaged: [www.getfullyengaged.com](http://www.getfullyengaged.com) (recommended)
    - ii. Prepare/Enrich: [www.prepare-enrich.com](http://www.prepare-enrich.com)
    - iii. FOCCUS: [www.Foccusinc.com](http://www.Foccusinc.com)
3. Registration for Marriage Preparation Workshops
  - a. The engaged couple is required to take two workshops for marriage preparation:
    - i. Sacramentality
    - ii. Life Skills
      1. A substitute for couples who have been previously married is the workshop 'To Trust Again.'
  - b. The couples will present the two certificates showing they completed the workshops, Sacramentality and Life Skills, to the priest preparing them for marriage. The Priest will then give them a signed form entitled *Marriage Preparation Completion Form*.
  - c. In the case of Military living outside of the United States and with approval from the Diocese of Venice, the program Catholic Marriage Prep can be used.
    - i. [www.catholicmarriageprep.org](http://www.catholicmarriageprep.org)

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4. The Baptismal Certificates and the completion of the Canonical Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire are required.
5. The Priest will have a packet to give the couple that has forms that need to be filled out and returned. It also will have the information for Marriage Requirements in the Diocese of Venice.
  - a. Affidavit Concerning the Freedom to Marry
  - b. Brochure from the Diocese of Venice regarding Marriage Preparation
  - c. Two Brochures that can be ordered through Ascension Press
  - d. Marriage Preparation business card with website information listed
  - e. Liturgical requirements for the Sacrament of Marriage
  - f. Premarital Inventory information.
  - g. Liturgical Information for Wedding.
6. Natural Family Planning Contact Information for the Diocese of Venice.
  - a. Natural Family Planning is strongly recommended for couples preparing for marriage in the Diocese of Venice.
7. Instruction of couples from the Priest or Deacon is a serious responsibility. The time of Marriage Preparation gives the priest a unique opportunity to work with those in our pastoral care at a critical time in their lives. The role of the priest in this process cannot be underestimated.



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

Office of Evangelization

Check List for Marriage Preparation

Groom Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Bride Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Priest \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Time of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_  
Date/Time of Rehearsal \_\_\_\_\_

	Bride Date	Groom Date
<b>Baptismal Certificate</b> (must be issued within six months of the wedding date)	_____	_____
<b>Confirmation Certificate</b> (must be issued within six months of the wedding date)	_____	_____
<b>Affidavit Concerning Freedom to Marry</b>	_____	_____
<b>Canonical Prenuptial Questionnaire</b>	_____	_____
<b>Date Entered Into Parish Calendar</b>	_____	_____
<b>Pre-Marital Inventory Administered</b>	_____	_____
<b>Pre-Marital Inventory Discussed</b>	_____	_____
<b>Sacramentality Workshop</b>	_____	_____
<b>Life Skills/To Trust Again Workshop</b>	_____	_____
<b>Dispensation Request(s) Sent</b> (mark N/A if not applicable)	_____	_____
<b>Dispensation Request(s) Received</b> (mark N/A if not applicable)	_____	_____
<b>Payment received</b>	_____	_____

If the wedding is between two Non-parishioners:  
Pastor's Permission Letter Received: \_\_\_\_\_ (Canon 1115)

If the wedding will take place elsewhere – Permission Letter Sent (When Parishioners are married outside of the parish boundaries and neither is a parishioner in the Church in which they shall be married): \_\_\_\_\_ (Canon 1115)

Liturgy Preparation Worksheet \_\_\_\_\_  
Circle One: Mass Ceremony

Civil License Secured \_\_\_\_\_

This couple has completed all preparation requirements for marriage as mandated by the Diocese of Venice in Florida.

Signature of Priest \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Civil License Returned \_\_\_\_\_ Sent by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Notification Sent for Bride \_\_\_\_\_ Sent by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(mark N/A if not Catholic)  
Notification Sent for Groom \_\_\_\_\_ Sent by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(mark N/A if not Catholic)  
Marriage Register Vol. \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ Row \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_



## Liturgical Guidelines for the Sacrament of Marriage

- To receive the Sacrament of Marriage fruitfully, the spouses are strongly advised to receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist. [CIC can. 1065 #2]
  - The Sacrament of Reconciliation should be received as close to the wedding date as possible such as after the rehearsal or the morning of the wedding.
- It is advised to discourage marriage celebrations on Sundays and certain holy days and seasons (e.g. Holy Thursday through Easter). Also “When a marriage is celebrated during Advent or Lent or other days of penance, the parish priest should advise the couple to take into consideration the special nature of these times.” (Rite of Marriage 11) This would affect the texts/readings of the day that must be used rather than the readings for the Rite of Marriage. Decoration of the worship space will also be minimal to none.
- The sacred nature of the Mass must be respected in any celebration. Care must be taken when advising couples in liturgical planning.
  - It is imperative that parish guidelines be given to the couples preparing for marriage. The parish guidelines should incorporate:
    - Liturgical needs including lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, altar servers, cantor and organist who is familiar with liturgical celebrations.
    - Explanation of the need to use sacred music to respect the sanctity of the Mass. (USCCB Guidelines can be found in *Music in Divine Worship*).
    - Photographers should be advised to be respectful of the Liturgy and are not allowed into the sanctuary area during the Liturgy.
    - Couples cannot write their own vows.
    - Information on the readings to choose from should be provided. (e.g. the book ***Together for Life*** by Joseph M. Champlin; [www.togetherforlifeonline.com](http://www.togetherforlifeonline.com) )
  - The Liturgy is Sacred
    - All present at the Sacrament of Marriage are to be active witnesses and participants beyond the wedding party. A worship aid to enable full participation is advised.
  - The ceremony is to take place in a Catholic Church or Chapel. No ceremonies allowed on the beach.
- If the Marriage is taking place between two baptized Catholics the Rite for Celebrating Marriage during Mass is strongly encouraged. If the Marriage is between a Catholic and a non-Catholic the Rite for Celebration of Marriage outside of Mass is to be encouraged. The non-Catholic is not given Communion if Mass is celebrated (RM 8).
- If it is determined that the bride, groom or witnesses are inebriated the Sacrament cannot take place.



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### ***Familiaris Consortio 67***

“Inasmuch as it is a sacramental action of sanctification, the celebration of marriage-inserted into the liturgy, which is the summit of the Church's action and the source of her sanctifying power (166) must be per se valid, worthy and fruitful...

...Inasmuch as it is a sign, the liturgical celebration should be conducted in such a way as to constitute, also in its external reality, a proclamation of the word of God and a profession of faith on the part of the community of believers. Pastoral commitment will be expressed here through the intelligent and careful preparation of the Liturgy of the Word and through the education to faith of those participating in the celebration and in the first place the couple being married.

Inasmuch as it is a sacramental action of the Church, the liturgical celebration of marriage should involve the Christian community, with the full, active and responsible participation of all those present, according to the place and task of each individual: the bride and bridegroom, the priest, the witnesses, the relatives, the friends, the other members of the faithful, all of them members of an assembly that manifests and lives the mystery of Christ and His Church. For the celebration of Christian marriage in the sphere of ancestral cultures or traditions, the principles laid down above should be followed.”

**For further information on Familiaris Consortio and the Pontifical Council for the Family's document on Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage visit the Vatican website [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va)**

Pope John Paul II. ([On the Family/Familiaris Consortio](#) )December 15, 1981.

*This is a foundational document on the nature and tasks of the Christian family and the scope of pastoral care needed by families. It describes marriage as a covenant relationship and the family as domestic church.*

[Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage](#), May 13, 1996.

*This document provides extended commentary and guidelines on the importance of preparation for Christian marriage, the stages of preparation, and the celebration of marriage.*



## DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

### Office of Evangelization

## Premarital Inventory Information for the Diocese of Venice

**FULLY ENGAGED:** A Premarital Inventory (PMI) that is encouraged to be used in the Diocese of Venice as a replacement for FOCCUS.

**FULLY ENGAGED** is a Catholic catechetical premarital inventory designed to help engaged couples solidify the foundation upon which they, together with Christ, will build their Sacrament of Marriage. Grounded in Church teaching and loaded with catechetical content, this dynamic premarital inventory is a trustworthy guide that meets the real challenges today's couples face.

**FULLY ENGAGED** helps couples to grow in their Catholic identity by smoothly integrating Church teaching into its materials. The Facilitator Guide contains adequate references to sacred Scripture, magisterial and ecclesial documents for use by clergy and lay ministers. **FULLY ENGAGED** carries a Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur.

With the Couple's Workbook and monthly follow up emails, **FULLY ENGAGED** seeks to ensure that the couple continues to grow in the Sacrament of Matrimony during their time of preparation and beyond.

To learn more about the **FULLY ENGAGED** program you can go to the website [www.getfullyengaged.com](http://www.getfullyengaged.com) or call **(800) 624-9019**.

### HOW IT WORKS

1. A Preview packet that contains the Facilitator's Guide, couples workbooks and scoring information is provided to clergy for \$46.00 (English or Spanish). This is a one time expense. If you have been trained in FOCCUS it will be easy to learn.
  - a. If you have been trained in FOCCUS you can simply go to the website ([www.getfullyengaged.com](http://www.getfullyengaged.com)) and watch the three videos that average in length of six minutes. These videos will train you to score and work with the **FULLY ENGAGED** program.
  - b. If you have not had formal training for a PMI you need to be trained in the **FULLY ENGAGED** program. Webinar training is available and is free of charge. You can order the preview packet and sign up to take the webinar training by calling (800)624-9019 ext. 310.
2. The Parish sets up a Parish profile with the Parish Administrative Assistant or the Priest as the contact person. Once the Parish profile is set up the Parish will generate their own codes for each couple.
  - a. The Priest will assign a code to the couple and then have them take the Pre-Marital Inventory. This can be done at the parish or at the couple's convenience online.
  - b. The cost per couple is \$20. \$8 to score and \$12 for the workbooks.
  - c. The results of the scoring will be sent to the parish contact person.
  - d. There is an option to have the couple fill out the PMI with pen and paper. The parish sends the answer sheets to Fully Engaged for scoring. The results are returned to the parish by email.

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3. After the contact person receives the printout the Priest will meet with the engaged couple, preferably four or more times. The facilitator's guide and couples workbook will be a great help to lead the discussion regarding areas of agreement and difference. The Priest can assign sections of the Couple's workbook for subsequent meetings.
4. After the couple is married, each spouse receives a series of monthly emails that contain specific, practical Catholic marriage tips. The goal is to help the marriage mature into the life-giving sacrament that Christ desires for them.

# FULLY ENGAGED

*Growing Toward  
Lasting Fidelity*



Couple ID 977  
Wedding Date 10/11/2011  
Months Dating 25

Cohabitation Yes  
Pregnant No  
Children Yes

Date of Questionnaire 1/8/2011  
Parish ID 165

## Groom

His Initials FFF  
His Age 42  
His Religion Presbyterian  
His Church Attendance Monthly  
His Marital Status Divorced-Annulled  
Children Yes  
His Education Four Year College  
His Annual Income \$75,001 - \$100,000  
His Ethnic Origin Caucasian

## Bride

Her Initials GGG  
Her Age 37  
Her Religion Catholic  
Her Church Attendance Monthly  
Her Marital Status Divorced  
Children Yes  
Her Education Postgraduate Degree  
Her Annual Income \$50,001 - \$75,000  
Her Ethnic Origin Caucasian

## Comparisons

Per Cent Agreement

Overview of Priority Questions	Per Cent Agreement
Overview of Priority Questions	55%
Differences Graph	33%
Division of Labor Graph	43%
Recreational Activities Graph	56%
Family of Origin Graph	64%
Communication Graph	43%
Conflict Resolution Graph	47%
Catholic Identity Graph	47%
Finances Graph	47%
Intimacy Graph	59%
Infertility and Adoption Graph	17%
Catholic Parenting Graph	63%
Vocation/Career Graph	44%
Sacrament of Marriage Graph	55%
Ecumenical Marriage Graph	90%
Second Marriage Graph	78%
Blended Family Graph	29%



# FULLY ENGAGED

*Growing Toward  
Lasting Fidelity*



Printout: January 14, 2011

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Couple ID 977

Date of Questionnaire 1/8/2011

Parish ID 165

Wedding Date 10/11/2011

Months Dating 25

## Differences

		Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
Discuss	60 I enjoy socializing in a crowd.	-	U	Y
Discuss	119 I prefer to be alone as opposed to being in a crowd.	-	Y	N
Discuss	82 I like to plan ahead.	-	U	Y
Discuss	126 I would rather be spontaneous than plan my day out carefully.	-	N	N
Discuss	133 Completing what I start is important to me.	-	Y	Y
Discuss	107 I am a night person.	-	N	N
Discuss	39 I am a morning person.	-	N	Y
Discuss	2 I like to spend money.	-	Y	
Discuss	124 I prefer to save money rather than spend it.	-	Y	N
Discuss	112 I am comfortable talking about my feelings.	-	U	N
Discuss	138 I am more logical than emotional.	-	N	N
Discuss	66 Even when I do not have all the facts about a situation, I trust my "gut" response.	-	Y	U

## Division of Labor

		Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
	88 We have discussed how household tasks will be divided between us.	Y	Y	Y
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>93 WE HAVE DISCUSSED HOW OUR ROLE AS HUSBAND AND WIFE DIFFER.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
Discuss	128 Our marriage should be a 50% - 50% arrangement regarding the division of labor in our home.	N	N	U
	72 It is important for us to discuss who will be responsible for different tasks (For example, dishes, cleaning, dusting, car maintenance, child-care, etc.).	Y	Y	Y

Discuss	17	After we are married, it will be important for us to devote time for yearly marriage enrichment.	Y	U	Y
	30	I believe that marriage will be an ongoing effort.	Y	Y	Y
Discuss	101	We have discussed who will stay home when our children are ill.	Y	N	N

### Recreational Activities

			Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
Discuss	123	I have at least one hobby that leaves me feeling nourished or refreshed. (For example, exercise, crafts, outdoor activities, etc.)	Y	U	Y
	96	My fiancé(e) spends too much time on a hobby.	N	N	N
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>THERE ARE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT WE ENJOY DOING TOGETHER.</b>	Y	Y	Y
	141	We have friends in common.	Y	Y	Y
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>I AM ABLE TO HAVE FUN WITHOUT MY FIANCÉ(E).</b>	Y	Y	Y
	4	Watching TV, movies, or surfing the web are the best recreational activities for me.	N	N	N
Discuss	36	My fiancé(e) spends too much money on recreation or hobbies.	N	U	N
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF TIME WE WILL SPEND AWAY FROM EACH OTHER FOR SPORTS AND HOBBIES.</b>	Y	N	U
Discuss	148	We have discussed the amount of time that is acceptable to spend "out with the girls" or "out with the guys."	Y	Y	N

### Family of Origin

			Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
	16	I can talk about one strength and one weakness from my family.	Y	Y	Y
	43	I can identify some of the strengths and weaknesses of my fiancé(e)'s family.	Y	Y	Y
	26	My fiancé(e) knows some of the strengths and weaknesses of my family.	Y	Y	Y
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>THE DIFFERENCES IN OUR FAMILY OF ORIGIN WILL INFLUENCE OUR RELATIONSHIP.</b>	Y	N	Y
	159	I am willing to talk with my fiancé(e) about my family.	Y	Y	Y
	32	When I was a child, my parent(s) / guardian(s) set appropriate limits with me.	Y	Y	Y

Discuss	25	I feel stressed when I am expected to visit with my fiancé (e)'s family members.	N	N	Y
	51	I have concerns about how involved my future in-laws will be in our marriage.	N	N	N
Discuss	73	As an adult, I get along well with my brothers and sisters.	Y	U	Y
Discuss	48	Growing up, I felt stressed about money in my family.	N	N	Y
Discuss	94	I believe my fiancé(e) has some past grief issues that may cause difficulties in our marriage. (For example, the death or disability of a family member, loss of job, etc.)	N	U	N
	56	My parent(s) or guardian(s) yelled at me a lot while I was a child.	N	N	N
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>SOMEONE CLOSE TO ME HAS SUFFERED SEXUAL ABUSE.</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
	103	There are older adults in my life to whom I can go for advice.	Y	Y	Y

### Communication

			Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
Discuss	87	My fiancé(e) and I make sarcastic comments to each other.	N	Y	Y
Discuss	142	I apologize and ask for forgiveness when I am wrong.	Y	Y	U
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>MY FIANCÉ(E) USES GOOD WAYS OF COMMUNICATING.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
Discuss	131	What we say is more important than what we do not say.	N	N	U
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>WHEN WE TALK, I OFTEN FEEL MY FIANCÉ(E) MISUNDERSTANDS ME.</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>U</b>
Discuss	40	We have decided what time of day serious issues should be discussed.	Y	N	U
	64	My fiancé(e) yells at me or others.	N	N	N
Discuss	76	I yell at my fiancé(e) or others.	N	N	Y
Discuss	84	I consider myself a "good listener."	Y	Y	N
	91	My fiancé(e) expresses love to me verbally.	Y	Y	Y
	110	I say "thank you" and "you're welcome."	Y	Y	Y
Discuss	41	When I am upset, I usually do not talk for a long time.	N	N	Y
	113	I feel put down by my fiancé(e).	N	N	N

52	I feel emotionally manipulated by my fiancé(e).	N	N	N
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**Conflict Resolution**

	Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
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Discuss	10 We have talked about the appropriate language we will use when conflict arises in our relationship.	Y	Y	N
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<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>104 I CAN IDENTIFY WHEN I FEEL ANGRY OR STRESSED OUT.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>U</b>
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	77 It is reasonable to expect my spouse to put up with things that annoy him/her about my behavior (For example, leaving the toilet seat up, chewing loudly, etc.).	N	N	N
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<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>5 WE HAVE DISCUSSED HOW WE WILL RESOLVE CONFLICTS WHEN THEY ARISE.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
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Discuss	106 We can talk about power struggles in our relationship.	Y	U	Y
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Discuss	122 I know the main sources of conflict in our relationship.	Y	N	U
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Discuss	125 I create conflict because we are closer when we make up.	N	N	U
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<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>120 I CAN TRUST MY FIANCÉ(E) AT ALL TIMES.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>Y</b>
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	99 I am worthy of my fiancé(e)'s trust.	Y	Y	Y
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Discuss	54 I am concerned with how food affects our relationship.	N	Y	Y
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<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>134 I AM CONCERNED ABOUT DRINKING AND/OR DRUG USE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP.</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
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	62 At times, I am afraid of my fiancé(e).	N	N	N
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	59 I have felt threatened by my fiancé(e).	N	N	N
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Discuss	135 I understand that we think and act differently.	Y	Y	U
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	154 I can agree to disagree with my fiancé(e).	Y	Y	Y
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Discuss	13 There are times when jealousy exists in our relationship.	N	U	N
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<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>42 THERE ARE CERTAIN ISSUES I HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME DISCUSSING OR BRINGING UP WITH MY FIANCÉ(E).</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Y</b>
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	150 Past or present behaviors of my fiancé(e) cause me concern (For example, depression, addiction).	N	N	N
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<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>157 I KNOW HOW TO POSITIVELY WORK OUT MY STRESS OR ANGER. (FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH EXERCISE, PRAYER, JOURNALING, TALKING, RELAXATION TECHNIQUES, ETC.)</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>U</b>
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Discuss	95	We know positive ways to handle conflict.	Y	Y	U
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### Catholic Identity

Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
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	71	I feel pressured to get married right now.	N	N	N
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	45	I understand that we will confer, or administer, the Sacrament of Marriage on each other.	Y	Y	Y
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Discuss	53	I go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation ("Confession") at least annually.	Y	U	Y
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Discuss	28	We plan to use Natural Family Planning (NFP).	Y	U	U
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	67	I have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.	Y	Y	Y
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<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>I ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO OUR CHURCH THROUGH MY TIME, TREASURE (MONEY), AND TALENTS.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
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Discuss	24	I sometimes get caught up in gossip.	N	N	Y
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<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>SUNDAY (OR THE SATURDAY VIGIL) MASS IS ESSENTIAL IN OUR MARRIAGE ON A WEEKLY BASIS.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>U</b>
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	80	I believe the teachings of my faith tradition should inform my daily thoughts and actions.	Y	Y	Y
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<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>I UNDERSTAND WHY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES THAT CONTRACEPTION IS WRONG.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Y</b>
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Discuss	57	Our faith is equally important to both of us.	Y	U	U
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Discuss	21	I think prayer is a private matter.	N	Y	Y
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	37	I am able to forgive when I am wronged.	Y	Y	Y
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	152	It takes two healthy "I's" to make a healthy "We."	Y	Y	Y
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<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>I BELIEVE WE WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL TO OUR MARRIAGE VOWS IN THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
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Discuss	23	I have (or my fiancé(e) has) reservations about the Catholic Church.	N	U	U
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Discuss	46	I understand why the Catholic Church teaches that living together before marriage is unacceptable.	Y	N	N
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Finances		Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>19 WE AGREE ON WHAT PERCENTAGE OF OUR INCOME WE WILL GIVE TO OUR CHURCH AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>U</b>
	145 We understand the need for financial long-range goals. (For example, retirement, life insurance, savings, etc.).	Y	Y	Y
Discuss	61 My fiancé(e) and I have significant differences in our approach to money.	N	Y	N
Discuss	114 I worry about money.	N	Y	Y
Discuss	58 At this point in my life, I believe I deserve to have certain things, even if I have to buy them on credit.	N	U	N
Discuss	132 Growing up, I was taught to save money.	Y	N	N
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>109 WE PLAN TO KEEP OUR FINANCES SEPARATE.</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>U</b>
	20 I believe it will be important to get my spouse's approval on purchases over an agreed-upon amount.	Y	Y	Y
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>12 OUR HOUSEHOLD WILL HAVE A WORKING BUDGET IN PLACE.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
	127 In our marriage, managing the budget will be both of our jobs.	Y	Y	Y
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>139 OUR WEDDING CELEBRATION WILL RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT DEBT FOR US.</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
Discuss	117 I am worried about the financial debt that my fiancé(e) already has.	N	Y	Y
Discuss	55 We have a plan to manage our current debt.	Y	N	N
	144 I am concerned about gambling in our relationship.	N	N	N
	158 I am concerned about compulsive spending in our relationship.	N	N	N
Intimacy		Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>29 THERE ARE DIFFERENT FORMS OF INTIMACY (CLOSENESS) IN A MARRIAGE.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
	38 I am comfortable with how we express affection.	Y	Y	Y
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>68 I AM CONCERNED ABOUT CERTAIN SEXUAL ATTITUDES OF MY FIANCÉ(E).</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>

<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>IT IS OK TO SHARE PRIVATE DETAILS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ANY OF OUR FRIENDS AND/OR FAMILY.</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
Discuss	115	I am concerned about hurtful experiences that have happened in my fiancé(e)'s life that could affect our marriage.	N	Y	U
Discuss	15	I am concerned about hurtful experiences that have happened in my life that could affect our marriage.	N	N	Y
Discuss	8	It is acceptable to use the pill, condoms, or another form of contraception.	N	Y	Y
	86	Sex will always be the best way for us to be close.	N	N	N
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO USE PORNOGRAPHY IN MARRIAGE.</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>U</b>
Discuss	14	I cannot imagine life without my fiancé(e).	N	Y	Y
	35	Jealousy is an issue in our relationship.	N	N	N
Discuss	121	I am concerned about the possibility of infidelity in our marriage.	N	Y	N
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>IF MY SPOUSE WAS UNFAITHFUL, I WOULD WANT TO WORK ON HEALING OUR MARRIAGE.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
	149	I am a better person because of my fiancé(e).	Y	Y	Y
	130	One or both of us use pornography.	N	N	N
	98	I have experienced strong sexual attraction to my same gender.	N	N	N
Discuss	85	Living together before marriage is a different commitment than the one made in marriage vows.	Y	N	Y

### Infertility and Adoption

Preferred Answer Groom Bride

<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>IF WE HAVE DIFFICULTY BECOMING PREGNANT, WE PLAN TO USE ANY MEANS NECESSARY TO CONCEIVE A CHILD.</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>U</b>
Discuss	100	We know where to seek support if we have a miscarriage.	Y	N	N
Discuss	18	If we conceive a child and find out there are special needs (for example, Down syndrome, spina bifida, etc.) we will carry the baby to term (we will not have an abortion).	Y	N	Y
	102	If we cannot give birth to our own children, our marriage will be empty.	N	N	N

Discuss	140	We may give prayerful consideration to adopting a child or being foster-care parents.	Y	Y	U
Discuss	89	We have discussed how we would deal with infertility. (Infertility is a period of 12 months of trying to achieve a pregnancy without success.)	Y	N	N

**Parenting**

			Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>WE ARE BOTH OPEN TO HAVING CHILDREN.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
	111	Children will make a significant impact on our marriage.	Y	Y	Y
Discuss	11	We have discussed appropriate ways to discipline our children.	Y	N	N
Discuss	69	The church has the responsibility for the religious education of our children.	N	N	U
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>GOOD PARENTS ALWAYS PUT THEIR CHILDREN'S NEEDS FIRST.</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>U</b>
	92	As parents, we will both be responsible for teaching our children to make good choices.	Y	Y	Y
	75	We plan on raising our children Catholic.	Y	Y	Y
	108	Both parents are responsible for their children's faith development.	Y	Y	Y

**Vocation / Career**

			Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
Discuss	105	I view my work as a vocation (or "calling").	Y	N	U
Discuss	155	I have discussed with my fiancé(e) how we will balance work time with our personal time.	Y	Y	N
	74	I find that my work gives me a sense of purpose.	Y	Y	Y
Discuss	63	My self-worth comes from what I do for a living.	N	N	Y
Discuss	129	The stress from my daily responsibilities spills over into our relationship.	N	N	Y
Discuss	156	We have discussed how many hours per week I will spend on my work responsibilities.	Y	Y	N
	49	I find that my work is full of temptations.	N	N	N
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>THE WAYS IN WHICH EACH OF US WILL SUPPORT OUR FAMILY ARE OF EQUAL IMPORTANCE.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
	31	I am concerned I may be marrying the wrong person.	N	N	N

The Sacrament of Marriage		Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
Discuss	47 I sincerely compliment my fiancé(e) daily.	Y	Y	N
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>70 WHEN WE ARE MARRIED, I HOPE TO HAVE REGULAR DATE NIGHTS WITH MY SPOUSE.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
	7 When we are married, I hope to pray with (and for) my spouse every day.	Y	Y	Y
	143 I like spending time just being with my fiancé(e).	Y	Y	Y
	153 I expect my fiancé(e) will be a good parent.	Y	Y	Y
Discuss	116 Our marriage will enrich our lives and the lives of others.	Y	U	Y
Discuss	1 I see Christ in the words and actions of my fiancé(e).	Y	U	Y
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>81 WE UNDERSTAND WHAT WE WILL BE PROMISING WHEN WE EXCHANGE OUR MARRIAGE VOWS.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
	97 By getting married in the Catholic Church, we are accepting responsibilities to God, ourselves and others.	Y	Y	Y
Discuss	27 Our wedding is "our day."	N	Y	Y
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>3 WE UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN WE EXCHANGE OUR VOWS, WE ARE ENTERING INTO A LIFE-LONG COVENANT.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>N</b>

Ecumenical Marriage		Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
	160 We understand how our religious beliefs are similar.	Y	Y	Y
	161 I am concerned that our religious beliefs will cause problems in our marriage.	N	N	N
	162 I am able to have positive talks with my fiancé(e) about faith and spiritual life.	Y	Y	Y
	163 We have discussed how our parenting will be impacted because of our different beliefs.	Y	Y	Y
Discuss	164 I expect my spouse to join my faith tradition.	N	Y	N
	165 If we have children, we will raise them in the Catholic faith.	Y	Y	Y
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>166 WE HAVE DECIDED WHERE WE WILL WORSHIP WEEKLY.</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
	167 I am compromising my religious identity by marrying someone from another faith tradition.	N	N	N

168	My family or friends have negative feelings concerning my fiancé(e)'s faith tradition.	N	N	N
169	Our marriage will enhance our faith life and the lives of others.	Y	Y	Y

## Second Marriage

		Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
	170 We understand and have discussed the differences between our current relationship and our previous marriage(s).	Y	Y	Y
	171 We have discussed and agreed upon the extent former in-laws will be involved in our life after our marriage.	Y	Y	Y
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>172 WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE IMPACT FROM ANY PROBLEM AREAS FROM OUR PAST MARRIAGE(S) (FOR EXAMPLE, DRUGS/ALCOHOL, PORNOGRAPHY, ABUSE ISSUES, ETC.)</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b>
	173 We have discussed any pre-nuptial agreements we have regarding personal finances in case of our death.	Y	Y	Y
	174 I have worked through difficulties from my past marriage.	Y	Y	Y
	175 I believe my fiancé(e) has worked through major past difficulties in his/her previous marriage(s).	Y	Y	Y
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>176 I AM CONCERNED THAT WE HAVE ENTERED INTO THIS RELATIONSHIP TOO SOON AFTER ENDING A PREVIOUS RELATIONSHIP/MARRIAGE.</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>N</b>
Discuss	177 We agree on where we will live and how we will share ownership and responsibility fairly.	Y	Y	N
Discuss	178 I am concerned about making the necessary adjustments for our new marriage to succeed.	N	N	Y

## Blended Family

		Preferred Answer	Groom	Bride
Discuss	179 I am concerned how our blended family will handle holidays, birthdays, and celebrations.	N	N	Y
Discuss	180 In our blended family, we have discussed how to balance our child(ren)'s needs and our needs as a couple.	Y	Y	N
	181 We have a plan in place to address difficulties that will arise with step-families.	Y	Y	Y
<b>PRIORITY</b>	<b>182 I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE ROLE MY FINANCÉ(E) WILL HAVE IN MY CHILD(REN)'S LIFE.</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>N</b>
Discuss	183 We have identified the blessings and challenges of children in our new marriage.	Y	N	Y

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Discuss	184	My children resist my fiancé(e)'s attempts to discipline them.	N	U	N
	185	I feel justified in using my legal and/or physical custody status to respond to issues with my ex-spouse. (For example, visitation, child support, etc.)	N	N	N

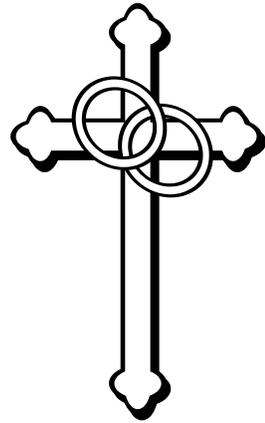
**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION  
MARITAL PREPARATION COURSE**

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF VENICE, FLORIDA**

**THIS CERTIFIES THAT**

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Completed the following marriage preparation program approved by the Diocese of Venice:



\_\_\_\_\_ Marital Assessment Inventory

\_\_\_\_\_ Marriage Preparation Classes (Select One)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1) Diocesan Program (must include both workshops below)

\_\_\_\_\_ Sacramentality Workshop

\_\_\_\_\_ Life Skills Workshop/ To Trust Again

\_\_\_\_\_ 2) C.M.P. Online Program (WITH DIOCESAN APPROVAL)

\_\_\_\_\_ 3) Private Instruction (WITH DIOCESAN APPROVAL)

\_\_\_\_\_ Church

\_\_\_\_\_ Priest Signature

\_\_\_\_\_ Date Completed

\_\_\_\_\_ Priest Printed Name

The course includes a minimum of four hours personal instruction and may additionally include DVD presentations.

(To be filed with the Clerk of Court in conjunction with the application for marriage license.)

Program meets the requirements of Florida Statute 741.0305.

Diocese of Venice  
1000 Pinebrook Road  
Venice, Florida 34284-2006

For Parish Use	For Diocesan Use
Bapt. Cert. <input type="checkbox"/>	Nihil Obstat <input type="checkbox"/>
Date confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>	Visum Est <input type="checkbox"/>
Celebrant assigned:	Delegation given <input type="checkbox"/>

DIOCESE OF VENICE  
PRE-NUPTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE

**Instructions: The parties ought to be questioned separately with the priest/deacon proposing the question and recording the answer. In investigating the freedom to marry by the attached questions, the priest/deacon ought to take the opportunity to once again help the couple understand the essential properties of Marriage according to Catholic Doctrine.**

BRIDE	Date of Birth:	Age:
Full Name	Primary Email:	
Address	City/State/Zip	
Occupation	Primary Phone	
Religion	Practicing Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
Parish/Church		
Father's Name	Religion	
Mother's Maiden Name	Religion	
Are you Baptized	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Church Baptized into
Convert to Catholicism	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Received Church
Church of Reception	City	
If Catholic were you confirmed?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Date
Church of Confirmation	City	
How long have you and your fiancé dated, been engaged?		
Have you ever been married before?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Civilly <input type="checkbox"/> Religiously <input type="checkbox"/> or by common law? <input type="checkbox"/>
If married before how many times	<b>See box on next page for all prior Marriages</b>	
Has your Fiancé be married before?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	If So, How many times?
For Catholics: Have you taken public vows as a religious?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Were you dispensed by the Holy See?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>If so include certificate of dispensation</b>
Are you and your fiancé related by blood, marriage or adoption?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
If yes, who is your common ancestor/relative?		
Is there any physical defect preventing sexual consummation of the Marriage?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you giving consent to Marriage freely?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any conditions attached to your consent?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you being forced or pressured into Marriage by anyone or by circumstances?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you understand that Marriage is a partnership of the whole of life?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you understand that Marriage is for your lifetime?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you understand your spouse will have the right to conjugal life and to children?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you understand that Marriage entails exclusive fidelity to your spouse	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you or your fiancé been treated for psychiatric problems?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Do your parents know about and approve of the Marriage? (Required if under 19)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>If any of the answers above indicate impediments explain in the comments section</b>		
Date and time of proposed ceremony?		
Name of Best man/ Maid of Honor	1.	2.
Will Banns be published?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	



For Parish Use	For Diocesan Use
Bapt. Cert. <input type="checkbox"/>	Nihil Obstat <input type="checkbox"/>
Date confirmed <input type="checkbox"/>	Visum Est <input type="checkbox"/>
Celebrant assigned:	Delegation given <input type="checkbox"/>

DIOCESE OF VENICE  
PRE-NUPTIAL QUESTIONNAIRE

**Instructions: The parties ought to be questioned separately with the priest/deacon proposing the question and recording the answer. In investigating the freedom to marry by the attached questions, the priest/deacon ought to take the opportunity to once again help the couple understand the essential properties of Marriage according to Catholic Doctrine.**

GROOM	Date of Birth:	Age:
Your Full Name	Primary Email	
Address	City/State/Zip	
Occupation	Primary Phone	
Your Religion	Practicing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>
Parish/Church		
Father's Name	Religion	
Mother's Maiden Name	Religion	
Are you Baptized Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Church Baptized into	
Convert to Catholicism Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Received Church	
Church of Reception	City	
If Catholic were you confirmed?	Date	
Church of Confirmation	City	
How long have you and your fiancée dated, been engaged?		
Have you ever been married before? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Civily <input type="checkbox"/> Religiously <input type="checkbox"/> or by common law? <input type="checkbox"/>	
If married before how many times	<b>See box on next page for all prior Marriages</b>	
Has your Fiancée be married before? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	How many times	
For Catholics: Have you been ordained or taken public vows as a religious?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Were you dispensed by the Holy See? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>If so include certificate of dispensation</b>	
Are you and your fiancée related by blood, marriage or adoption?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
If yes, who is your common ancestor/relative?		
Is there any physical defect preventing sexual consummation of the Marriage?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you giving consent to Marriage freely?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any conditions attached to your consent?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Are you being forced or pressured into Marriage by anyone or by circumstances?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you understand that Marriage is a partnership of the whole of life?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you understand that Marriage is for your lifetime?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you understand your spouse will have the right to conjugal life and to children?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you understand that Marriage entails exclusive fidelity to your spouse	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you or your fiancée been treated for psychiatric problems?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Do your parents know about and approve of the Marriage? (Required If under 19)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>If any of the answers above indicate pastoral concerns explain in the comments section</b>		
Date and time of proposed ceremony?		
Best man/Maid of Honor?	1.	2.
Will Banns be published?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	





## AFFIDAVIT CONCERNING THE FREEDOM TO MARRY

of

\_\_\_\_\_

1. a) Your name? \_\_\_\_\_

b) Address? \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State

c) Religion? \_\_\_\_\_

2. a) How long have you known the above mentioned person? \_\_\_\_\_

b) What is your relationship to this person? \_\_\_\_\_

c) How well are you acquainted with him/her? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Has the above mentioned person ever attempted or entered a marriage before this day (in a church, civilly or by common law)? \_\_\_\_\_ (Yes or No)

If "yes" how many times (including an existing union which is to be validated)? \_\_\_\_\_

With whom?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Marriage

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Place

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Before whom?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Was the marriage ever witnessed in the presence of a Catholic priest?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

How did this marriage cease to exist?

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

4. a) Is there any reason why the forthcoming marriage of the person mentioned above would not be valid?\_\_\_\_\_ If so, explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) Are there any circumstances which might be forcing this person to enter into this marriage?\_\_\_\_\_ If so, explain:\_\_\_\_\_

5. (Ask only when the above person is under 19 years of age) Have the parents given approval of this marriage?\_\_\_\_\_

If no, what are the reason\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Are you acquainted with the other party to this marriage?\_\_\_\_\_ If so, is the other party free to enter this marriage?\_\_\_\_\_

7. Have you heard either of these persons express any condition or intention contrary to the nature and purpose of Christian marriage?\_\_\_\_\_ If so, explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Have you any other pertinent information concerning the forthcoming marriage?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Parish Seal**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of the Person**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of the priest**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Rectory Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

State/Zip

Church of Marriage (within the Diocese of Venice): \_\_\_\_\_

**DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA  
PRE-MARITAL REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION/PERMISSION**

Name of Bride: _____	Name of Groom: _____
<b>Whose Religious affiliations are</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Non Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Baptized as a _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Un-baptized <input type="checkbox"/> Doubtfully Baptized	<input type="checkbox"/> Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Non Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Baptized as a _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Un-baptized <input type="checkbox"/> Doubtfully Baptized
Who proposed to be married On: Date: _____ At: Place: _____ Address _____ Before: (person accepting the vows) _____ A: Catholic Priest/Deacon <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> _____	
<b>Petitioning from the Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida</b>	
Dispensation from	<input type="checkbox"/> Disparity of Worship (non-baptism) <input type="checkbox"/> Disparity of Worship Conditional (doubtful baptism) <input type="checkbox"/> Canonical Form (there must be one non-Catholic party) <input type="checkbox"/> Grade of Affinity <input type="checkbox"/> Grade of Consanguinity <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Permission For	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Religion <input type="checkbox"/> Person bound by natural obligations to spouse or children <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage involving <input type="checkbox"/> A premarital pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> A Transient <input type="checkbox"/> A person under canonical penalty (censure) <input type="checkbox"/> A person who has notoriously rejected the faith <input type="checkbox"/> A proxy for one of the parties <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage in non-Catholic church or place of public worship Place requested: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<b>For the spiritual reasons stated below (mark all that apply)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> For the spiritual welfare of the parties <input type="checkbox"/> Promise to embrace the Catholic faith <input type="checkbox"/> Well-founded hope of conversion of the non-Catholic party <input type="checkbox"/> Danger of familiarity leading to grave sin <input type="checkbox"/> Danger of Apostasy (if dispensation is denied)	<input type="checkbox"/> Removal of Grave Scandal <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-marital pregnancy and Civil legitimization of a child <input type="checkbox"/> Convalidation of an invalid marriage <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of good reputation of the parties <input type="checkbox"/> Grave danger of un-chastity <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

+ **Frank J. Dewane Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida** hereby grants the parties the required dispensations and/or permission requested herein:

The undersigned priest /deacon affirms that the proper questions have been asked of the parties and the promises of the Catholic party have been received according to the norm of law. The undersigned cleric also affirms that the pre-marital investigation indicates that except for the issues raised herein the parties are free to marry.

Priest / Deacon presenting the request \_\_\_\_\_

DECREE

Given at Venice Florida this day \_\_\_\_\_

By delegation of + Frank J. Dewane \_\_\_\_\_

Notary \_\_\_\_\_

*Valid until three months after the day of the proposed ceremony herein.*

Notations:


A NEW MARRIAGE PREPARATION "SUPPLEMENT"

*Theology of the Body*

BASED ON THE

# THEOLOGY OF THE BODY



GOD'S PLAN FOR  
A JOY-FILLED

*Marriage*

# A COMPELLING VISION THAT SPEAKS TO THE HEARTS OF TODAY'S COUPLES

.....

*God's Plan For a Joy-Filled Marriage* is a marriage preparation supplement that offers engaged couples a compelling presentation of God's glorious plan for marital love and life.

Based on Blessed John Paul II's Theology of the Body, this supplement need not replace current diocesan or parish programs. Rather, it is intended to *enhance* a key component of marriage preparation: catechesis in the theology of marriage and the gift of human sexuality.

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"The program was wonderful. I plan to return to the Church because of it and I'm so excited. Thank you so much, this program has truly touched my life."  
—Stephanie S.

---

When people think of the Catholic Church's teaching on sex and marriage, they often think of a list of "prohibitions." Others who live with the Church's teachings often do so with an "I'm-coping-with-it, but-I'm-not-happy" attitude. *God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage* offers a refreshing, liberating vision of marriage and sexuality—one that helps couples fully embrace, and even celebrate, God's glorious plan for their lives.

The creators of the program believe that when engaged couples understand God's plan for marriage, including a clear and pastoral explanation of the "difficult teachings," they come away from the program with a sense of liberation and gratitude rather than resentment toward the Church.

*God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage* can be implemented as a one-day seminar or over multiple evenings or a weekend.

## A Supplement, Not a Replacement

*God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage* is a supplement to existing marriage preparation programs. It is designed to enhance two key components: the theology of marriage and the gift of human sexuality.

Most marriage preparation programs provide couples with only an hour or two of instruction on the theology of marriage and sexuality, *God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage* provides couples with a more thorough presentation and explanation of the teachings of the Church. Its "pedagogy," or approach to teaching, is both rich in content and pastorally sensitive.

The program can be taught by an instructor or by using our DVD set, and is available in both English and Spanish.



## PROGRAM OUTLINE

*God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage* is divided into two main parts, each with three engaging presentations and two reflection exercises for couples.

### Part 1 – Catholic Faith & Your Marriage

It is the common experience of those who work with engaged couples that the faith of these couples is most often in need of rediscovery, nourishment, and maturation. Following the basic Christian schema of “Creation, Fall, and Redemption,” Part 1 provides a reflection on the Word of God as understood by the Church in regard to God’s plan for marriage and our need for Christ. It also helps couples understand the nature and meaning of the commitments they make in their exchange of vows. Part 1 includes three presentations:

- *God's Plan for Marriage “In the Beginning”*
- *Christ Restores God's Plan for Marriage*
- *What Are You Saying “I Do” To?*

### Part 2 – Sacramental Sexuality

While many factors have contributed to the breakdown of marriage and family life, special attention must be given to the widespread acceptance of new sexual attitudes and “lifestyles.” There is no sidestepping this often difficult aspect of marriage preparation. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body provides the positive approach we need. Building on the foundation laid in Part 1, Part 2 of *God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage* presents the joys of “sexual honesty” before and within marriage. Part 2 includes three presentations:

- *The Joy of Sexual Honesty Before Marriage*
- *The Joy of Sexual Honesty Within Marriage*
- *Some Practical Benefits of Natural Family Planning*

### Faith Should Be *Proposed*, Not *Imposed*

*God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage* works from the premise that Catholic teaching can never be *imposed*, only *proposed*, especially in our modern culture where messages that are contrary to the Catholic vision of marital love are commonplace. We realize that we are presenting the Church’s vision to a skeptical audience that will ask many valid and understandable questions. We also know that pastoral sensitivity is vital to transmitting the message successfully.

We believe that when Catholic teaching is upheld in its full splendor, it does not need to be foisted on anyone. Men and women are naturally attracted to the beauty of God’s plan for marital love; most couples simply have never heard it presented in a sensible, appealing way. *God's Plan for a Joy-filled Marriage* seeks to do just that—present the fullness of Catholic teaching on marital love in all its beauty. The rest is in God’s hands.



“My fiancée and I have grown and deepened our love and commitment to Christ more from this program than in our whole relationship.”  
—Steve S.

“This was the best presentation of Catholic teaching I have ever heard.”  
—Melanie F.

“If my fiancée and I had learned these teachings of the Church on sexuality sooner, we would never have become sexually active.”  
—Mark M.

“This class has renewed my faith in the Catholic Church.”  
—Jennifer W.

“As an Evangelical Christian, I was blown away...I am now considering taking RCIA.”  
—Lisa R.

“This program is the first that I have heard that offered candid and logically sound discussions about Catholic teaching on sex and marriage. I am truly appreciative.”

—Tom S.

## Life-Changing Results



Having surveyed more than two thousand couples over a five-year period, the creators of *God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage* found that:

**91%** were sexually active coming into the program.

**48%** (of the above 91%) said they will save sex until marriage because of this program. An **additional 20%** said they were now *considering* saving sex for marriage.

**31%** stated they will “definitely use” natural family planning in their marriages because of this seminar.

**45%** “may use NFP” in their marriage.

**78%** came away with a better understanding of the Catholic vision of marriage.

**50%** came away with a more positive impression of the Catholic Church.

**48%** planned to be more active in their faith as a result of the program.

**61%** made a deeper commitment to Christ as a result of this program.

Introduce *God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage* into the current marriage program or preparation offered by your parish or diocese. To learn more about this program or to discuss questions you may have, please call us at

**1-800-376-0520**

# GOD'S PLAN FOR A JOY-FILLED *Marriage*

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Contact: Naedal McMullen at 1-800-376-0520 ext. 263

JoyFilledMarriage.com



# Living a *Joy-Filled Marriage*

The *Living a Joy-filled Marriage* Program is a virtue based life-skills program that incorporates sound psychology with Catholic theology to help couples understand and set patterns of thought and behavior that ensure a joy-filled marriage.

*Living a Joy-filled Marriage* springs from the teaching of Blessed John Paul II's *Familiaris Consortio*, which calls families and couples to explore their own uniqueness by seeking their identity and mission in Christ. Each part of this course emphasizes a particular aspect of our Christian mission.

## **What is Unique about the *Living A Joy-Filled Marriage* Program and How Does it Work?**

Building on the principles of the Theology of the Body, *Living A Joy-filled Marriage* creates a unique learning environment. During each session the program incorporates a three-stage approach that helps couples assimilate the material, discuss and personalize the principles and set plans for applying the virtue based skills.

- *Learning Stage*: First couples learn sound principles and a fresh virtue-based approach to life skills through the narrative of a presenting couple.
- *Discuss & Discover Stage*: Through a variety of focused activities, couples discuss their relationship, learn about themselves and begin applying what they have learned.
- *Plan & Build Stage*: Few couples have actually set a concrete plan for building a joy-filled marriage. Therefore, the final stage helps couples recognize topics they may need to discuss at a later date, identify joint goals and set concrete plans building and ensuring a joy-filled marriage. All of this is captured in one planning document, the M.A.P.

## **Virtue-Based Life Skills**

The *Living a Joy-Filled Marriage* program is built on seven fundamental virtues that every aspect of marriage needs – from communication to finances, from sexuality to prayer. The virtues that permeate the program are Faith, Hope, Love, Fairness, Good Discernment, Balance, and Perseverance. In an engaging way, each session applies the virtues to the different aspects of married life.

## **Making It Stick**

By engaging the couples in a variety of ways, we can reinforce the material and help them apply what they have learned. Therefore, throughout each session couples are given quick and effective “Check-in” activities (10 -30 seconds) to help them assimilate and personalize the concepts. These “Check-in” activities prime them for the longer activities at the end of each presentation called “Break-Out” activities. During each “Break-Out” couples have more time to reflect on, discuss and apply the material they just learned. This enables the couple to dig deeper.

## **M.A.P.**

Finally, each couple is given a practical Marriage Action Plan (M.A.P.) whereby they capture their priorities, set concrete goals, and identify next-steps for building a joy-filled marriage. By the end of the sessions, the couples have begun a concrete “post-workshop” marriage plan!

## Descriptions of Each Session

### Session One: **Discovering Your Marriage Mission Statement and the Role of Virtue**

Session One addresses two flawed goals upon which many couples ground their marriage, and then it offers, as an alternative, a single clear goal that safeguards marriage. Session One addresses how the practice of virtue corresponds to seven fundamental longings that every person desires to have fulfilled. Finally, the session is rounded off by helping couples craft a personalized marriage mission statement that will unify them in purpose and help them in the remaining sessions.

### Session Two: **Communicating Love (Learning and Respecting Love styles)**

Session Two explains how love is communicated in different ways and even in levels (romance, friendship, and total self-giving). Once couples understand the various aspect of love, they are poised to explore how each person experiences and expresses love uniquely. We call this their primary love style. In this session couples discover their primary love styles as individuals. They learn that different love styles are not opposing love styles and discover how to express love in ways that truly communicate love to the other. Finally, the session addresses key virtues for communicating better.

### Session Three: **Resolving Conflict (The Art of Loving Amidst Conflict)**

Session Three offers couples simple steps to help them discern when to avoid conflict and when to bring up issues for discussion. When a couple chooses to discuss a delicate or emotionally charged topic, Session Three proposes key virtues for disagreements that foster attentive listening, maintaining a calm and open disposition, mutual respect and joint resolution.

### Session Four: **Building Happiness: (Managing Your Time and Money)**

Session Four outlines fundamental virtues and habits in any good marriage for the healthy management of money, time and energy. This helps couples hone in on their joint priorities and then compares them against how they are actually spending their time and money. The discussions and exercises in Session Four help couples see discrepancies in their actions while opening them up to a constructive dialogue about what they want to make a priority in the relationship and what good habits they need to gain happiness that is lasting and unifying.

### Session Five: **Fostering Intimacy (Prayer and Sexuality)**

Session Five explains how intimacy in marriage deepens friendship and trust with one another. While God has designed both prayer and the marital embrace to be intimate experiences that bring forth an abundance of love and life, a closer look shows us that both are intended to draw us closer to one another and also to God Himself. Session Five calls couples to sexual honesty. This honesty has four signs: it is a love that is free, total, faithful and fruitful. But the sexual intimacy is also meant to point us to an even greater love, namely the love of Christ. Therefore, Session Five concludes with an explanation of how prayer is simply a conversation between friends - God and you. As an apropos closure, the session invites couples to begin a life of prayer together by modeling it.



## *DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA*

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### **Convalidation Information**

The Diocese of Venice is pleased to provide a workshop specifically for couples who are already married and wanting to Convalidate their Marriage. This is a one-day workshop held two times a year from 8:30am-4pm on a Saturday. The day will be broken into four sessions consisting of The Vision of a Sacramental Marriage, Communication skills, God's plan for our Marriage and trusting our Marriage to God.

If couples are unable to attend this workshop, it is requested that they attend both the Sacramentality and Life Skills workshop, which are held on Saturday's throughout the Diocese of Venice. The schedule can be found at:

<http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/marriageprep> by clicking on the button of Marriage Preparation Classes.

Convalidation workshop dates can be found with at the link above with the other workshop dates. If you have questions about the Convalidation workshop, please contact Kim at [elsmore@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:elsmore@dioceseofvenice.org).