

# *“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.*

Groom	Bride
_____	Name _____
_____	Address _____
_____	Address _____
_____	Email _____
_____	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 (the first two should be offered as primary): *Mentor Couple Program, Engaged Encounter Weekend, Days for the Engaged, Online, etc.*
- which priest/deacon will complete the Prenuptial 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-marriage 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.*