

PRE-MARRIAGE FILE

Diocese of Grand Rapids



*For this reason a man shall leave his father
and mother, and shall cling to his wife,
and the two shall be made into one.
This is a great foreshadowing:
I mean that it refers to Christ and the Church.*

Ephesians 5:31-32

WEDDING
DATE:

GROOM:

BRIDE:

INSTRUCTIONS

This form is to be used as part of the preparation process for all couples seeking to marry in the Catholic Church, whether it is a first time marriage for both parties, when one or both of them have been previously married, or when there is to be a validation ceremony of a civil union.

The priest or pastoral minister is to question the parties individually and solicit their responses to the questions. The parties should not fill out the forms themselves.

This examination should take place as early as possible in the preparation process since its purpose is to surface any issues that should be resolved before the marriage ceremony can proceed.

While many of the questions require only a “yes” or “no” response, this process is an opportunity to educate and form the couple regarding the meaning and purpose of Christian marriage. For example, the question “Do you intend a life long union with your spouse?” provides an opportunity to discuss the Church’s teaching on the permanence of marriage.

The priest or minister is to ensure that all proper dispensations, permissions, and delegations have been granted. Note that only priests have been delegated to grant such dispensations, permissions, and delegations. They may not grant the dispensation from canonical form or the dispensation for inter-ritual ceremonies. The priest may not grant permissions or dispensations for persons who do not have a domicile in the Diocese of Grand Rapids if the wedding is not taking place in the diocese.

If one of the parties to the marriage is not Catholic, make sure that the Prenuptial Declarations and Promises have been explained to the couple and that the Catholic party signs the promises. The oral declaration is used only when the Catholic objects to making the promise in writing.

Certain documents should be retained in the file. For Catholics there should be a recent (issued within the last six months) baptismal certificate which includes all notations from the record. For baptized non-Catholics there should be a certificate or letter from the church of baptism attesting to the Christian baptism; if none is available, then a dispensation from Disparity of Worship ad cautelam should be granted. A photocopy of the civil marriage license should be kept in the file. The results of premarital inventories may be included. Declarations of nullity of previous unions or death certificates of deceased spouses should be included. Include the document lifting a vetitum imposed and the supporting materials which accompanied the request that it be lifted.

When the parish of celebration and the parish of preparation are different, keep a copy of this form and the documents in both parishes.

GENERAL INFORMATION

GROOM:	BRIDE:
Home Parish:	Home Parish:
City/State of Parish:	City/State of Parish:
Witness:	Witness:
Date of Rehearsal:	Time of Rehearsal:
Date of Wedding:	Time of Wedding:
Place of Wedding:	
Minister Arranging Wedding:	
Person Officiating at Wedding:	
If this is a Convalidation Date, place, and officiant of civil ceremony:	

DELEGATION

Delegation to witness the marriage is required for the VALIDITY of the marriage if the sacred minister officiating is not the pastor or the associate pastor of the parish in which the marriage takes place. The proper authority must grant delegation to that sacred minister.

I hereby delegate _____ **to witness this marriage.**

Signed: _____ Title: _____

Parish: _____ Date: _____

CHECKLIST

DOCUMENTATION	Check if Required	Completion Date
Permission for Mixed Religion *		
Dispensation from Disparity of Worship *		
Dispensation from Canonical Form *		
Inter-Ritual Dispensation (for Eastern Rite Catholic)		
Civil Marriage License: County: _____ Number: _____	X	
Groom – Recent Baptismal Certificate and/or Profession of Faith		
Bride – Recent Baptismal Certificate and/or Profession of Faith		
Delegation granted if necessary		
Notification of parish of place of baptism of Catholic parties after the wedding	X	
Recorded in the parish's Marriage Register: Vol: _____ Page: _____	X	
Declaration of Nullity Decree obtained for any and all previous marriages:		

* Fill out the Dispensation Form and send a copy to the Chancery Office

	GROOM	BRIDE
Full Name (maiden)		
Address		
City/County/State		
Telephone numbers Home and Work		
Date and place of birth		
Father's Name		
Father's religion (ritual church*)		
Mother's maiden Name		
Mother's religion (ritual church*)		
Your religion (ritual church*)		
Extent to which you practice your faith and receive the sacraments (circle one)	Regularly Seldom	Occasionally Never
	Regularly Seldom	Occasionally Never

IF CATHOLIC: Date of Baptism or profession of faith		
Church of baptism or profession of faith		
City/State of baptism or profession of faith		
Ritual church of baptism		
First Communion	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Confirmation	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Have you ever joined another church by baptism, confirmation, profession of faith, or enrollment?	Yes _____ No _____ Date:	Yes _____ No _____ Date:
Have you returned to the Catholic Faith from another Church?	Yes _____ No _____ Date:	Yes _____ No _____ Date:

IF NOT CATHOLIC: Have you ever been baptized?	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Date of Baptism		
Denomination		
Name of Church where baptism took place		
City and State		

***In all marriages involving Eastern Rite Catholics, please contact the Chancery Office**

	GROOM	BRIDE
Have you ever received Holy Orders? (If yes, written proof of dispensation is required)	Yes _____ No _____	
Have you ever made a Public Perpetual Vow of Chastity in a Religious Institute? (If yes, written proof of dispensation needed)	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Are you related to your intended spouse by blood, legal adoption, or marriage (as an in-law)?	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Are you aware of any reason why you might not be able to engage in sexual intercourse?	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Marital intimacy has for its purpose the good of the spouses as well as the bearing and rearing of children. God willing, do you intend to fulfill this aspect of marriage?	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Do you intend a life long union of marriage with your spouse?	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Do you intend to be exclusively faithful to your spouse?	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Are you marrying of your own free will without anyone or anything pressuring your decision?	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Are you entering this marriage with any conditions or reservations placed on it?	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Have you seriously considered the obligations of the marital commitment and believe yourself capable of fulfilling them?	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Have you or your intended spouse ever suffered from a mental or emotional condition, from the use of alcohol or drugs, or from abusive behavior? (If yes, evidence of ability to marry is needed.)	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
If you are under 18 years of age, are your parents aware of and consenting to your marriage? (cf. canon 1071, n1,6)	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Have you ever been previously married? (If so, please complete the following section on PRIOR MARRIAGES)	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
Do you have any obligations to a child or a previous partner (cf. canon 1071 1,3)	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____

BY YOUR SIGNATURE, DO YOU AFFIRM THE ANSWERS YOU HAVE GIVEN ARE TRUE?

Groom's Signature _____ Date _____

Bride's Signature _____ Date _____

Signature of _____ Date _____
 Priest/Deacon/Pastoral Minister

Parish _____ ☎ _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

PRIOR MARRIAGES

	GROOM	BRIDE
Number of prior marriages*		
Name of prior spouse (indicate maiden name)		
Date and place of prior marriage		
Date and place of death (if applicable)		
Date and place of divorce		
Diocese granting the nullity		
Date of decree of nullity and case number		
Is there any restriction on the party to remarry	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____
If yes, has the restriction been lifted	Yes _____ No _____	Yes _____ No _____

***If more than one marriage, please provide complete information on each one.**

PRENUPTIAL DECLARATION AND PROMISE

This promise must be made by the Catholic party in every marriage involving a spouse who is not Catholic or one who has left the Catholic Church by a formal act.

By the Catholic Party:

I reaffirm my faith in Jesus Christ and with God's help intend to continue living that faith in the Catholic Church. At the same time, I acknowledge the respect I owe to the conscience of my partner in marriage.

I promise to do all that is in my power to share the faith I have received with our children and to make every effort that I can to have them baptized and raised as Catholics.

Signature of the Catholic party

The required promise and declaration have been made by the Catholic party in my presence. The party of the other faith has been informed of the promise obliging the Catholic spouse.

Signature of Priest/Deacon/Pastoral Minister Date

Parish City

CHECK HERE IF NECESSARY: _____ The Catholic party made the above declaration and promise only orally.

NOTES FROM PASTORAL CONTACTS

- Initial meeting and conference completed Date:
- Policies and guidelines presented to couple
- Premarriage inventory taken Date:
- Inventory scored and discussed with couple Date:
- Marriage Preparation Program Date:
(eg. Parish Program, Sponsor Couple, Engaged Encounter, Pre-Cana, Cana II, etc.)
- Paperwork and documents completed Date:
- Any Necessary dispensations granted and sent to the Chancery
- Liturgy planning completed Date:
- Musicians contacted

Date of Rehearsal:

Date of Wedding:

Other Notes and Pastoral Reflections Regarding this Wedding: