



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

Office of Evangelization

Marriage Preparation for the Diocese of Venice in Florida

THIS PACKET INCLUDES:

- Marriage Preparation Guidelines for the Diocese of Venice in Florida (***English and Spanish***)
- Liturgical Guidelines for the Sacrament of Matrimony (***English and Spanish***)
- Check List for Marriage Preparation, for Priest (***English and Spanish***)
- Canonical Pre-Nuptial Questionnaires (***English and Spanish***)
 - *Bride and Groom each complete a Questionnaire*
- Affidavit Concerning the Freedom to Marry (***English and Spanish***)
- Matrimonial Dispensation or Permission Form (***English and Spanish***)
- Certificate of Completion Form

Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Family Life Coordinator, Office of Evangelization: (941) 484-9543

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	See box on next page for all prior Marriages	
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"/>	If so, include Certificate of Dispensation	
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"/>	
If any of the answers above indicate impediments explain in the comments section		
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"/>	

- ☐ I affirm Marriage is a sacrament and expression of my faith
- ☐ I affirm that I have the proper knowledge of Marriage and of my fiancé's personality and character
- ☐ I affirm that there is nothing affecting my freedom to marry
- ☐ I agree to willingly cooperate with the Parish and Diocese's policies for Marriage Preparation
- ☐ I solemnly swear before God that my answers have been truthful

Bride Signed	Date
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☐ After the investigation conducted, as a sacred minister, I am morally certain of the Freedom to Marry or;

☐ I have attached Affidavit(s) as to the Freedom to Marry

Priest/Deacon Signed	Date
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Affix Parish Seal

Previous Marriages	1	2
With Whom?		
Date of Marriage?		
How did the marriage cease?		
Is a death Certificate/decreed of nullity enclosed?		
Are you bound by natural obligations to wife or children?		
Are all obligations being met?		

[illegible]

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.

<u>GROOM</u>	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? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	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	See box on next page for all prior Marriages	
Has your Fiancée be married before? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	If so, 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"/>	If so, include Certificate of Dispensation	
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"/>	
If any of the answers above indicate pastoral concerns explain in the comments section		
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"/>	

By signing this document I affirm that I have been instructed about and affirm Catholic teaching about Marriage

- ☐ I affirm Marriage is a sacrament and expression of my faith
- ☐ I affirm that I have the proper knowledge of Marriage and of my fiancée's personality and character
- ☐ I affirm that there is nothing affecting my freedom to marry
- ☐ I agree to willingly cooperate with the Parish and Diocese's policies for Marriage Preparation
- ☐ I solemnly swear before God that my answers have been truthful

Groom
Signed

Date _____

- ☐ After the investigation conducted, as a sacred minister, I am morally certain of the Freedom to Marry, or
- ☐ I have attached Affidavit(s) as to the Freedom to Marry

Priest/Deacon
Signed

Date _____

Affix Parish Seal

Previous Marriages

1

2

With Whom?

Date of Marriage?

How did the marriage cease?

Is a death Certificate enclosed/
Decree of nullity enclosed?

Are you bound by natural obligations to wife or children?

Are all obligations being met?

REMARKS



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

AFFIDAVIT CONCERNING THE FREEDOM TO MARRY

of

1. Your name: _____

Address: _____

Street

City

State/Zip

Religion: _____

2. How long have you known the above-mentioned person? _____

What is your relationship to this person? _____

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? _____

Date of Marriage: _____

Place: _____

Before Whom? _____

Was the marriage ever witnessed in the presence of a Catholic Priest? _____ (Yes or No)

How did this marriage cease to exist? _____

4. Is there any reason why the forthcoming marriage of the above-mentioned person would not be valid? _____ (Yes or No). If "yes," please explain: _____

Are there circumstances which might be forcing this person to enter into this marriage? (Yes or No). If "yes," please explain: _____

5. (***Ask only when the above-mentioned person is under 19 years of age***). Have the parents given approval of this marriage? _____ (Yes or No). If "no," what is the reason(s): _____

6. Are you acquainted with the other party to this marriage? _____ (Yes or No). If "yes," is the other party free to enter into this marriage? _____

7. Have you heard either of these persons express any condition or intention contrary to the nature and purpose of Christian marriage? _____ (Yes or No). If "yes," please explain: _____

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

Parish Seal

Signature of Person Completing Affidavit

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

Office of Evangelization

Check List for Marriage Preparation

Groom Name _____

Bride Name _____

Priest _____

Baptismal Certificate

(must be issued within
six months of wedding date)

Bride Date	Groom Date
_____	_____

Affidavit Concerning Freedom to Marry _____

Canonical Prenuptial Questionnaire _____

Marriage Prep Program _____

Date Entered Into Parish Calendar _____

Dispensation Request(s) Sent
(mark N/A if not applicable) _____

Dispensation Request(s) Received
(mark N/A if not applicable) _____

Payment received _____

Church _____

Date/Time of Marriage _____

Date/Time of Rehearsal _____

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: _____



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

Office of Evangelization

Marriage Preparation Guidelines - 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 (***not required; at Pastor's discretion***)
 - a. Premarital Inventories that can be used in the Diocese of Venice:
 - i. Fully Engaged: www.getfullyengaged.com (recommended for older couples)
 - ii. Prepare/Enrich: www.prepare-enrich.com (recommended for ***Witness To Love*** couples)
 - iii. FOCCUS: www.Foccusinc.com
3. Registration for Marriage Preparation Program
 - a. Couples under 55 years old participate in the ***Witness To Love*** Mentor Program– (to include DOV “Day of Reflection” retreat).
 - b. Couples over 55 years old complete the one-day “Two Become One” Retreat.
 - c. In the case of Military couples or geographical separation circumstances and with approval from the Diocese of Venice, the on-line program Catholic Marriage Prep can be used.
 - d. In the case of older couples (75+ years old) at least 4 hours of personal instruction by the Priest or Deacon may be given.
4. When a couple has completed their Preparation, the Priest will provide the couple a signed document entitled *Certificate of Completion Form* so that the couple may receive a discount and 3-day waiting period waiver for their Marriage License.
5. The Baptismal Certificates and the completion of the Canonical Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire are required.
6. The Priest will have a packet to give the couple that has forms that need to be filled out and returned.
 - a. Affidavit Concerning the Freedom to Marry
 - b. Liturgical Guidelines for the Sacrament of Marriage.
7. Natural Family Planning is strongly recommended for couples preparing for marriage in the Diocese of Venice.
8. 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

PRE-MARITAL REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION/PERMISSION

Name of Bride: _____	Name of Groom: _____
Whose Religious affiliations are	
<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"/> _____	
Petitioning from the Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida	
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 _____
For the spiritual reasons stated below (mark all that apply)	
<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:

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION MARITAL PREPARATION COURSE

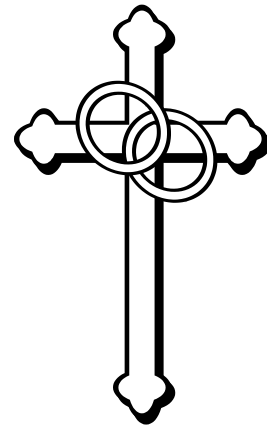
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF VENICE, FLORIDA

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

_____ and _____

Completed the following marriage preparation program approved by the
Diocese of Venice (select one):

- _____ 1) *Witness to Love* Mentor Program
 - _____ A) "Day of Reflection" Retreat
 - _____ B) Diocese of Venice Online Seminar
- _____ 2) Diocesan Retreat: "Two Become One"
- _____ 3) CatholicMarriagePrep.com Online Program
(WITH DIOCESAN APPROVAL)
- _____ 4) Private Instruction
(WITH DIOCESAN APPROVAL)



Church

Priest Signature

Date Completed

Priest Printed Name

Each 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
(941) 484-9543



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.togethforlifeonline.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.

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

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.