

## Wedding Preparation Guidelines

It is important that a couple begin their marriage preparation as soon as possible; there is a lot you will need to do to prepare for your future lives together. This includes the following:

### a. Planning the Wedding with you Presider

To file the application to the diocese, individuals will be asked to provide documents when applicable, showing their religious background and sacraments received. The priest or deacon will advise you accordingly. For example, Romans Catholics will be asked to provide the following documents:

- A recently dated BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE.
- A CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE or photocopy of the original.

### b. Marriage Preparation Programs

At your earliest convenience, please register for the following program(s):

- **The Pre Cana Program, Life Skills**

Offered at St. Rose of Lima and at select parishes within the diocese. St Rose offers this program three times a year, usually in January, May and September. Mentoring couples will take you through areas like: Communications in Marriage, Managing Resources (e.g. money, time, energy), Conflict, your Marriage Mission, and Intimacy in Marriage.

For additional information, contact Deacon Ron Forino or his wife Linda at 973-887-2963 or via e-mail at RonForino@aol.com. You may register through our Office.

- **God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage** (*optional*)

Held at St. Paul Inside the Walls in Madison, NJ (the Diocesan Evangelization Center), this includes a series of talks and discussions based on the "Theology of the Body" that offers an understanding of God's plan for marriage and human sexuality. While this material is covered in Life Skills, "God's Plan" offer a deeper understanding. You may register for a session at the following website:

<http://www.insidethewalls.org/guide-to-marriagepreparation>

- **FOCCUS INVENTORY** (*not available at this time*)

The FOCCUS© Pre-Marriage Inventory is a comprehensive, user-friendly tool for use by couples who are preparing for marriage. The FOCCUS© Inventory is designed to help engaged couples appreciate their unique relationship, learn more about themselves, and discuss topics important to their lifelong marriage.

**a. Other topics to cover with you presider:**

- Date and Time of the wedding
- Book your presider
- MUSIC
- REHEARSAL DATE
- Obtaining the MARRIAGE LICENSE (Please bring your license to the wedding rehearsal.)

Your wedding presider will help you plan your MASS AND CEREMONY. Be sure to ask about policies for:

- VIDEOGRAPHER/PHOTOGRAPHER/DECORATIONS
- Fees

NOTE: Diocesan policy prohibits aisle runners, rice, birdseed and blowing of bubbles.