

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI PRENUPTIAL INVESTIGATION: M-1 FORM



Notes for the Parish Minister Preparing a Couple for Marriage

This **M-1 Form** and the following guidelines have one goal in mind: to help you minister more effectively to couples preparing for marriage. Your prudent pastoral judgment is of paramount importance in the marriage preparation process. Nevertheless, the following guidelines reflect the results of the archdiocesan-wide survey of parish clergy conducted in the spring and summer of 1981:

1. Ordinarily, the priest or deacon who agrees to witness the wedding assumes the responsibility of preparing the couple for marriage.
2. It is recommended that adequately trained married couples from the parish be encouraged to participate in the marriage preparation process.
3. Parish ministers are not interrogators of the couples preparing for marriage. Rather, they are partners and collaborators in the process. The purpose of the *Couple's Insert for the M-1 Form* is to help the parish minister(s) make adequate, appropriate, and responsible use of the **M-1 Form** itself.
4. Flexibility is possible. For a variety of reasons, a given couple may not be able to write answers to the questions on the *Couple's Insert*. In that case, use the *Insert* as a tool for reflection in preparation for subsequent sessions.
5. The questions on the *Couple's Insert* may appear formidable to the couple. The *Insert* should not be given to the couple before adequate preparation for it has taken place. There should be at least a couple of meetings with the pastoral minister before the *Insert* is given to the couple.
6. Suggested sequence: (1) Introductory meetings; (2) Administration, evaluation and discussion of the FOCCUS instrument; (3) Use of the *Couple's Insert*; (4) Completion of the **M-1 Form** by the parish minister(s) and the priest or deacon; (5) Pre-Cana and/or other recognized marriage preparation programs; (6) final meeting to review the entire marriage preparation process and to plan the wedding ceremony.
7. It is the canonical responsibility of the priest or deacon to review the **M-1 Form** and to recommend, by his signature, the couple for marriage.
8. The couple's written answers to the questions on the *Couple's Insert* are to be filed in the prenuptial investigation envelope. *If a dispensation is needed, please send the M-1 Form, the M-2 Form, and baptismal record(s) to the Chancery.*

(Revised October, 2005)

THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CINCINNATI

100 East Eighth Street * Cincinnati, OH 45202-2150 * 513.421.3131 * Fax: 513.421.6225

GROOM

BRIDE

_____	Name	_____
_____	Address	_____
_____	City, State & Zip	_____
_____	Telephone	_____
_____	Date of Birth	_____
_____	Religion (Rite)	_____
_____	Date of Baptism	_____
_____	Church of Baptism	_____
_____	Address	_____
_____	City, State & Zip	_____
_____	Father	_____
_____	Mother (Maiden)	_____
_____	Present Parish	_____
_____	Witnesses	_____
_____	Date & Place of Wedding	_____

Notification of this marriage must be sent to the parish(es) of baptism/reception of the Catholic spouse(s).

AIDS TO HELP THE PARISH MINISTER ASSESS THE COUPLE'S READINESS FOR MARRIAGE

NOTE: There should be a sufficient number of meetings to accomplish three goals:

1. to become acquainted with the couple;
2. to put them at ease;
3. to provide them with adequate instruction about the nature of and requirements for the celebration of Christian marriage.

Only then should the couple be given copies of the *Couple's Insert for the M-1 Form*.

After evaluating the answers of the couple to the questions on the *Insert*, the parish minister is to record his own personal assessment in the space provided on this form. He is encouraged to use any other proved instruments (e.g. the FOCUS) that will assist him in making the necessary evaluation in each assessment area. The use of trained married couples from the parish to assist in the assessment is highly recommended.

DECLARATION OF MATRIMONIAL INTENT

Since consent makes a marriage, it is essential that the couple be completely familiar with all of marriage's constitutive elements. This DECLARATION is an expression of current theology and canon law. It is to be signed at the conclusion of the prenuptial investigation and preparation process. It is important, therefore, that its intent be explored and understood by the couple as they prepare for their marriage.

We, in the presence of one another, individually declare our freedom to marry and our freedom from any known impediments between us. We hold marriage to be a lifelong, faithful union and process of choosing each other for the mutual and total sharing of our life and our love. It is a union which is open to children. It is a union which is modeled after and symbolizes God's ever-faithful love for His people. It is a partnership of the totality of life and love that we seek and to which we will publicly give our consent in marriage.

Signature of Groom

Signature of Bride

CERTIFICATION OF READINESS FOR MARRIAGE

After a thorough review, I (priest or deacon) attest that this couple is free to marry and has the proper intentions regarding Christian marriage. Further, I attest that their understanding of Christian marriage is sufficient for them to be able to celebrate matrimony according to the Rite of Marriage, Introduction #7 and the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican II, #59.

COMMENTS:

Parish

Signature of Priest or Deacon

City

Date

PERMISSION OF PROPER PASTOR(S):

Weddings should be celebrated in the parish church of either the Catholic bride or the Catholic groom. If this is not the case, the permission of the proper pastor(s) should be obtained (canons 1114 & 1115). Check here () once this permission has been received.

DELEGATION:

In accordance with canon 1111, I hereby delegate _____
to assist within the limits of this parish at the marriage of the parties named on page 2 of this form.

Signature of Pastor or Parochial Vicar

Date

DOCUMENT FOR GRANTING MIXED RELIGION PERMISSION

*This form must be completed for each and every proposed marriage between a baptized Catholic and a **definitely baptized non-Catholic** in order for the Permission for Mixed Religion to be licit. Proof of the non-Catholic's baptism (either through a document or written verification from a qualified, knowledgeable witness) is necessary in order for you to grant this permission (canon 876). Documentary or written proof of baptism of the non-Catholic must be included in this file.*

PRENUPTIAL DECLARATION AND PROMISE

(This promise must be made in every marriage involving a non-Catholic).

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.

I promise to do all in my power to share the faith I have received with our children by having them baptized and reared as Catholics.

Signature of the Catholic Party

[Check if necessary: () The Catholic party chose to make the above declaration and promise orally.]

CERTIFICATION THAT THE DECLARATION AND PROMISE HAVE BEEN MADE

I (priest or deacon) certify by my signature that the Catholic party has made the above declaration and promise with full knowledge of its intent and that the other party is aware of the promise obliging the Catholic.

Date

Signature of Priest or Deacon

MIXED RELIGION PERMISSION RESCRIPT

Having fulfilled the canonical requirements of canon 1125, and with sufficient reason, I hereby GRANT PERMISSION for the parties named on page 2 of this questionnaire to marry. This PERMISSION is granted in virtue of the power delegated to me by the Local Ordinary.

Date

Signature of Priest or Deacon

N.B. If one party is **not baptized**, or if there is no document or written statement from a qualified, knowledgeable witness to the baptism of the non-Catholic, or if another type of permission or dispensation is necessary, please send the M-1 Form, the M-2 Form, and baptismal certificate(s) to the CHANCERY. Lack of a dispensation affects the validity of this marriage.