



Dear Engaged Couple,

Allow me to extend my sincere congratulations on your engagement and upcoming wedding. It is always wonderful to share the joy and excitement of a couple preparing to commit their lives together in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

The ultimate purpose of Christian Marriage is to assist one another on the journey of life and help one another get to heaven. The marriage preparation process is designed to strengthen your love for one another and invite you to fully embrace the joy of the Gospel through the vocation of marriage. I encourage you to use the months leading up to your wedding as a time to grow in holiness and deepen your relationship with God and one another.

I especially encourage you to pray together as you prepare for your wedding, as well as throughout your married life. "Prayer gives meaning to our lives and all that we are." (*Testify to the Light*) May you always see yourselves as God's dear children and thank Him for giving you the gift of each other.

Be assured of the Church's continual love and support as you prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony and throughout your life together as husband and wife.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

+ David J. Bonnar

Most Rev. David J. Bonnar
Bishop of Youngstown



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Preparing for Your Marriage

A Resource for Engaged Couples



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Preparing for Your Marriage



While many preparations are being made for your wedding day, the Church also asks that you take the next 6+ months to prepare for your life-long marriage together. The following process is not meant to be

difficult or burdensome, but to invite you into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, the Church, and each other.

The priest or deacon preparing you for marriage will help direct you through the following process:

1. At least 3 meetings with the priest or deacon.
2. Completion of a pre-marriage assessment inventory.
3. Attend one or more formation opportunities.
4. Receive information on Natural Family Planning

You may also be directed to complete a course in Natural Family Planning and/or a Life Skills Workshop.

Meetings with the Priest or Deacon

At these meetings, you will get acquainted with the priest or deacon officiating your wedding, complete the necessary documents, discuss the pre-marriage assessment, and plan the liturgy.

Priest/Deacon _____
 Phone _____

Meeting 1: Date _____ Time _____

Meeting 2: Date _____ Time _____

Meeting 3: Date _____ Time _____

Pre-marriage Assessment

You will be asked to complete an assessment inventory such as FOCCUS or Prepare-Enrich. This is not a compatibility test, but a tool to help foster communication.

Assessment completed Date _____

Assessment reviewed Date _____

Formation Opportunities

The priest or deacon will direct you to complete one or more of the following programs:

- Engaged Couple Retreat: Diocesan One Day Retreat for Engaged Couples
- Sponsor Couple Program
- Parish Pre-Cana Day
- Catholic Engaged Encounter Weekend

Program(s) _____

Date(s)/Time(s) _____

NFP Information

Your parish will provide information about Natural Family Planning as well as the contact information for local NFP instructors and organizations.

NFP Information Received. Date _____

Catholics who have not yet received the sacrament of confirmation are to receive it before they are admitted to marriage if it can be done without grave inconvenience. To receive the sacrament of marriage fruitfully, spouses are urged especially to approach the sacraments of penance and of the Most Holy Eucharist.