

PRENUPTIAL INQUIRY

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

Name of Church Parish _____ City _____

The purposes of the Pre-Nuptial Inquiry are (1) to assist the priest, deacon or other Catholic minister preparing the engaged couple for marriage to develop a comfortable catechetical and pastoral relationship; (2) to assist in the determination of the readiness of the couple to marry; (3) to dispose the couple for a fruitful and lasting reception of the Sacrament of Matrimony; and (4) to assure that all canonical requirements of the Church are met.

GROOM

Please type or write clearly!

BRIDE

	Full Legal Name	
	Address	
	Address	
	Cell Phone	
	Alternate Phone	
	E-mail Address	
	Age	
	Religion	
	Church Parish	
	Marital Status	

Date of First Meeting with Catholic Priest/Deacon/Pastoral Minister: _____

Interviewer: _____

Place of Wedding Ceremony: _____ City: _____

Date of Wedding Ceremony: _____ Day & Time: _____

Date of Wedding Rehearsal: _____ Day & Time: _____

Name of Proposed Officiant: _____ Check One: Priest Deacon

Address of Proposed Officiant: _____

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(Revised 1-21-2010)

GROOM

INSTRUCTIONS: Please interview the prospective groom alone and separately. This section should be completed during one or more interview sessions held at the beginning of the marriage preparation process as outlined on Page 6, Section I of the *Marriage Preparation Guidelines for the Province of New Orleans* promulgated in 2008. It may be advisable to complete questions 11 through 22 during a later interview, once good rapport has been established with the groom.

Before beginning any questioning, ask the groom, "Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth in making these statements, so help you God?" If he answers in the affirmative, proceed.

1. Groom's Full Name: _____
2. Father's Full Name: _____ Father's Religion: _____
Mother's Maiden Name: _____ Mother's Religion: _____
3. Groom's Birth Date: _____ City/State of Birth: _____
4. Groom's Religion: _____ Unbaptized Baptized Date: _____
Church of Baptism: _____ Catholic Non Catholic
Church Address: _____
If Catholic, have you ever defected from the Catholic Church by a Formal Act? Yes No
If Yes, Please list detailed information on when, how & new church affiliation:

For A Catholic Only

5. If Eastern Catholic, which is/was your autonomous church *sui iuris* (e.g., the Maronite Church)?

 6. When did you last receive instructions in the Catholic Faith (e.g., Catholic School or religious education)?
_____ Where? _____
 - 7a. If Confirmed, list date of confirmation: _____
 - 7b. If Not Confirmed, what are your intentions in this regard? _____
 8. How often do you attend Sunday mass? Each Weekend Occasionally Rarely Never
 9. Name of Your Church Parish: _____
In Your Church Parish are you: Registered Domicile church parish only (Not Registered)
10. Have you ever married in any way to anyone before, even civilly or in "common law"? Yes No

(Note: The state of Louisiana does not recognize "common-law" marriages; if you think this is relevant to your situation, consult with the state where the "common-law" relationship occurred.)

Note: It is necessary to attach to this form a copy of the ecclesiastical decree of invalidity; civil marriage certificate and divorce decree of the prior marriage; or prior wife's death certificate or published obituary. If ANY ecclesiastical decree of invalidity is still needed, NO WEDDING CAN TAKE PLACE, and so any proposed wedding date remains merely tentative.)

If yes, list prior wife's full name as listed on birth certificate: _____

Her religion? _____ Date of that wedding: _____ Place: _____

How did this prior marriage end? Ecclesiastical (Church) decree of invalidity Civil divorce Prior wife's death

11. Are you related to your fiancée in any way? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

12. Is any person or circumstance pressuring you to marry? Yes No

Is any person or circumstance pressuring the bride to marry you? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

13. Are there any diriment impediments to this marriage? (This would include: Prior Marital Bond, Age, Impotence, Disparity of Worship, Sacred Orders, Perpetual Vows of Chastity in a Religious Community, Abduction, Murder of one's spouse, Consanguinity, Relationship of Affinity, Relationship of Public Propriety, Adoptive Relationship) Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

14. Do you intend to enter into a permanent, lifelong marriage, which can be dissolved only by death? Yes No

15. Do you intend to be faithful to your wife always? Yes No

16. Do you have children from a previous relationship? Yes No

17. Do you intend to exclude children permanently from your marriage? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Does your fiancée intend to exclude children permanently from your marriage? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

18. Are you giving unconditional consent to this marriage? Yes No

19. Have you or will you execute a premarital or postnuptial agreement? Yes No

If yes, what are your intentions? _____

(Note: If doubt still exists consult with Tribunal.)

20. Do you or your fiancée have any physical, emotional, or other psychological problems which could hinder your living a normal married life? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Further Notes: _____

21. Do your parents agree with your decision to marry? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Do your fiancée's parents agree with her decision to marry you? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

22. Is there any major fact about you, either in the present or past, which you have not made known to your intended spouse and which might affect her willingness to marry you? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

If the answer to any question nos. 11 through 22 is problematic, explain the views of the groom carefully:

The pastor, officiant, or his delegate having reminded the groom of the sacred character and binding force of an oath will ask: "Do you solemnly swear that all answers previously given are the truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"

Signature of Interviewer

Church Parish Where Interviewed

City

Signature of Groom

Date Signed

The seal of the parish is to be affixed to this page.

Follow-Up Discussion Starters

In your own opinion and understanding, what does marriage mean?

Do you understand the reasons for the marriage preparation process? Why are they important? How do you feel about this process?

Do you understand Catholic teachings about marriage? Can you accept the truths about sexuality, about children, about faithfulness, and about permanence that we know are God's will? Why do you feel this way? Do you understand the church's concerns with cohabitation?

Describe your personal and family background. What do I need to know about you in order to know you well? Why do you think you are personally ready for marriage? In what areas of life do you still need to grow?

When did you first meet each other? What has your courtship been like? What has attracted you to each other? What remains the most difficult part of your relationship? When did you decide to marry? What would you say is your greatest strength as a couple? Why? What will be your most difficult challenge? Again, why?

After completion of the premarital inventory and discussing the results, the priest or deacon will make a decision to proceed or delay the marriage (see page 36 in the Canonical Requirements - Section 8 Special Circumstances in the *Marriage Preparation Guidelines for the Province of New Orleans* promulgated in 2008).

BRIDE

INSTRUCTIONS: Please interview the prospective bride alone and separately. This section should be completed during one or more interview sessions held at the beginning of the marriage preparation process as outlined on Page 6, Section I of the *Marriage Preparation Guidelines for the Province of New Orleans* promulgated in 2008. It may be advisable to complete questions 11 through 22 during a later interview, once good rapport has been established with the bride.

Before beginning any questioning, ask the bride, "Do you solemnly swear to tell the truth in making these statements, so help you God?" If she answers in the affirmative, proceed.

1. Bride's Full Name: _____

2. Father's Full Name: _____ Father's Religion: _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____ Mother's Religion: _____

3. Bride's Birth Date: _____ City/State of Birth: _____

4. Bride's Religion: _____ Unbaptized Baptized Date: _____

Church of Baptism: _____ Catholic Non Catholic

Church Address: _____

If Catholic, have you ever defected from the Catholic Church by a Formal Act? Yes No

If Yes, Please list detailed information on when, how & new church affiliation:

For A Catholic Only

5. If Eastern Catholic, which is/was your autonomous church *sui iuris* (e.g., the Maronite Church)?

6. When did you last receive instructions in the Catholic Faith (e.g., Catholic School or religious education)?

_____ Where? _____

7a. If Confirmed, list date of confirmation: _____

7b. If Not Confirmed, what are your intentions in this regard? _____

8. How often do you attend Sunday mass? Each Weekend Occasionally Rarely Never

9. Name of Your Church Parish: _____

In Your Church Parish are you: Registered Domicile church parish only (Not Registered)

10. Have you ever married in any way to anyone before, even civilly or in "common law"? Yes No

(Note: The state of Louisiana does not recognize "common-law" marriages; if you think this is relevant to your situation, consult with the state where the "common-law" relationship occurred.)

Note: It is necessary to attach to this form a copy of the ecclesiastical decree of invalidity; civil marriage certificate and divorce decree of the prior marriage; or prior husband's death certificate or published obituary. If ANY ecclesiastical decree of invalidity is still needed, NO WEDDING CAN TAKE PLACE, and so any proposed wedding date remains merely tentative.)

If yes, list prior husband's full name as listed on birth certificate: _____

His religion? _____ Date of that wedding: _____ Place: _____

How did this prior marriage end? Ecclesiastical (Church) decree of invalidity Civil divorce Prior husband's death

11. Are you related to your fiancé in any way? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

12. Is any person or circumstance pressuring you to marry? Yes No

Is any person or circumstance pressuring the groom to marry you? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

13. Are there any diriment impediments to this marriage? (This would include: Prior Marital Bond, Age, Impotence, Disparity of Worship, Sacred Orders, Perpetual Vows of Chastity in a Religious Community, Abduction, Murder of one's spouse, Consanguinity, Relationship of Affinity, Relationship of Public Propriety, Adoptive Relationship) Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

14. Do you intend to enter into a permanent, lifelong marriage, which can be dissolved only by death? Yes No

15. Do you intend to be faithful to your husband always? Yes No

16. Do you have children from a previous relationship? Yes No

17. Do you intend to exclude children permanently from your marriage? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Does your fiancé intend to exclude children permanently from your marriage? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

18. Are you giving unconditional consent to this marriage? Yes No

19. Have you or will you execute a premarital or postnuptial agreement? Yes No

If yes, what are your intentions? _____

(Note: If doubt still exists consult with Tribunal.)

20. Do you or your fiancé have any physical, emotional, or other psychological problems which could hinder your living a normal married life? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

Further Notes: _____

21. Do your parents agree with your decision to marry? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

Do your fiancé's parents agree with his decision to marry you? Yes No

If no, please explain: _____

22. Is there any major fact about you, either in the present or past, which you have not made known to your intended spouse and which might affect his willingness to marry you? Yes No

If yes, please explain: _____

If the answer to any question nos. 11 through 22 is problematic, explain the views of the bride carefully:

The pastor, officiant, or his delegate having reminded the bride of the sacred character and binding force of an oath will ask: "Do you solemnly swear that all answers previously given are the truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"

Signature of Interviewer

Church Parish Where Interviewed

City

Signature of Bride

Date Signed

The seal of the parish is to be affixed to this page.

Follow-Up Discussion Starters

In your own opinion and understanding, what does marriage mean?

Do you understand the reasons for the marriage preparation process? Why are they important? How do you feel about this process?

Do you understand Catholic teachings about marriage? Can you accept the truths about sexuality, about children, about faithfulness, and about permanence that we know are God's will? Why do you feel this way? Do you understand the church's concerns with cohabitation?

Describe your personal and family background. What do I need to know about you in order to know you well? Why do you think you are personally ready for marriage? In what areas of life do you still need to grow?

When did you first meet each other? What has your courtship been like? What has attracted you to each other? What remains the most difficult part of your relationship? When did you decide to marry? What would you say is your greatest strength as a couple? Why? What will be your most difficult challenge? Again, why?

After completion of the premarital inventory and discussing the results, the priest or deacon will make a decision to proceed or delay the marriage (see page 36 in the Canonical Requirements - Section 8 Special Circumstances in the *Marriage Preparation Guidelines for the Province of New Orleans* promulgated in 2008).

Assessment of Readiness for Marriage

If the priest/deacon determines that the couple is prepared sufficiently for the marriage, a tentative date for the wedding may be set and further preparations made.

1. In the event of some special circumstance (e.g., age under 18, premarital pregnancy, parental opposition, extreme religious indifference, etc.) the couple is to be referred to a diocesan approved evaluator (another priest or lay person, preferably from the same locale, trained for evaluation) for additional evaluation prior to finalizing the assessment.
2. If the priest/deacon determines that either of the parties is not prepared to enter marriage, he must delay witnessing the marriage according to the norms set forth in the Delay Marriage section in the *Marriage Preparation Guidelines for the Province of New Orleans* promulgated in 2008 (see page 36 in the Canonical Requirements – Section 8 Special Circumstances in the *Marriage Preparation Guidelines for the Province of New Orleans* promulgated in 2008). In the event that the proposed officiant decides the wedding must be delayed, appropriate continuing marriage preparation is to be offered to the couple. Both interviewer and officiant are urged to add personal notes and evaluative remarks to the prenuptial file, along with all required and useful documentation.

Wedding Checklist

FOCCUS, PREPARE, or other Pre-marital Inventory completed? Yes No Discussed on date(s): _____

Premarital Preparation program attended: _____ Date: _____

Baptismal certificate(s) obtained? Yes No Permission of one of the parties' pastor obtained? Yes No

Permission for a "mixed religion" marriage has been granted by: _____

Check dispensation(s) needed: Disparity of Cult Consanguinity Canonical Form Other _____

Check off once obtained: Disparity of Cult Consanguinity Canonical Form Other _____

If the proposed Catholic officiant is not a priest or deacon assigned to the parish in which the wedding takes place, he must be specifically delegated to officiate; if the proposed Catholic officiant does not have faculties in this diocese, has a "Testimonial of Suitability for (Priestly) (Diaconal) Ministry" been obtained? Yes No

Delegation Granted To: _____

Delegation Granted By: _____ Date: _____

Is the proposed Catholic Officiant registered with the State of Louisiana to "Perform Marriages and Officiate Principally as Clergy/Officiant"? Yes No

Have these various liturgical norms and guidelines, especially for the specific church building, been explained?

Liturgical Music Photography Videotaping Flowers & Other décor Other _____

Will there be a Nuptial Mass? Yes No

Is this wedding a convalidation? Yes No

If yes, have the parties been informed that renewal of consent for convalidation requires a new act of the will? Yes No

Printed names of two official witnesses: _____
