



Secretariat FOR Evangelization AND Catechesis

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

ENGAGED COUPLES OUTLINE OF MEETINGS WITH PRIEST OR DEACON

First Meeting: INITIAL CONTACT WITH PRIEST (or Deacon)

Between **6 to 12 months** prior to the proposed wedding date.

The engaged couple should meet with your parish priest or deacon.

All paperwork should be completed at the parish where the initial contact is made. Your file will then be forwarded to the parish where the wedding will take place, if applicable.

The first meeting is for the priest or deacon to get to you as a couple and introduce you to the marriage preparation process, including the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory.

The parish priest or deacon will assist you during the registration process for a Pre-Cana session.

Pre-Nuptial Investigation is done to gather preliminary information about the couple. An assessment is made at this time regarding readiness for sacramental marriage, and necessary documents that are required by the Church are gathered.

Second to Fifth Meeting: PRE-MARRIAGE INVENTORY

The priest or deacon will review the FOCCUS Pre-Marriage Inventory responses with the couple.

Various documents will be reviewed:

- Baptismal Certificate – a Baptismal certificate is required for each person to be married
- Freedom to Marry Form – if applicable
- Evidence of Death of Previous Spouse – if applicable
- Annulment Form – if applicable

Dispensations

In case of special circumstances, special forms will have to be filled out and permission required:

- If a Catholic person is getting married to a baptized, non-Catholic person, a **Dispensation Form – Mixed Marriage** is required.
- If a Catholic person is getting married to a non-Catholic, non-baptized person (Jewish, Muslim, Atheist, Mormon, etc.), a **Dispensation from Disparity of Cult Form** is required.

- If a Catholic person is getting married outside a Catholic church (Synagogue, Temple, Christian Church, etc.), a **Dispensation from the Canonical Form of Marriage** is required.

Any of these forms will take time to get approved, so please make sure that you address the issues in a timely manner.

Sixth Meeting: FINAL REVIEW

The priest or deacon will review final details with the couple before the wedding. A Natural Family Planning (NFP) Introduction class or training session is encouraged. The priest or deacon should also encourage the couple to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

IN BRIEF:

Church Requirements

- Baptismal certificates dated within six months of the wedding date
- Initial interview with officiating clergy at least six months prior to the planned wedding date
- Completion of Pre-Marriage Inventory
- Certificate of Attendance from a formally approved Marriage Preparation Program
- Pre-Marriage affidavits (if applicable)

Civil Requirement

- Marriage license

PLEASE CONTACT:

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