

# 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Groom

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church Parish Where Interviewed

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Bride

\_\_\_\_\_  
Church Parish Where Interviewed

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

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## Follow-Up Discussion Starters

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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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_