

**Wedding information for interested parties who live in the Diocese of Charleston
(State of South Carolina) but are not parishioners of St. Francis by the Sea**

The Rite of Marriage is most properly celebrated in the home parish of the bride or groom. To receive proper spiritual preparation for the sacrament of marriage and to understand the requirements for the wedding day, most dioceses require that this preparation start at least 6 months before the wedding date.

If neither party is a registered member of St. Francis by the Sea, a letter from the Catholic party's parish priest(s) will be required before the St. Francis pastor considers your request. The letter(s) should state that the marriage has been discussed with the Catholic party's pastor and that he grants permission for the wedding to be celebrated at St. Francis by the Sea. A plan for all marriage preparation must also be in place and should be mentioned in the letter(s).

Once the initial letter(s) from the home pastor is received, a meeting to complete the Diocese of Charleston's Prenuptial Questionnaire will be scheduled; please provide contact information with the letter. *A requested marriage date will not be reserved until after this meeting and questionnaire is completed by a priest or deacon at St. Francis by the Sea.*

At St. Francis by the Sea, the sacrament of marriage between two Catholics will always be celebrated within the Mass. The Wedding Guidelines and the "Together for Life" booklet will be given to the couple to aid in planning the wedding liturgy. A Music Planning Guide will also be provided so that the couple can meet with the parish Music Director; all wedding music must be approved by our Music Director.

If the couple will be moving from the area and knows where they will be living after the wedding, it is recommended that they register at the parish they will be attending and if possible meet with that pastor.