



## OFFICE OF THE TRIBUNAL

Diocese of Duluth • 2830 East Fourth Street • Duluth, Minnesota 55812-1501

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### PRENUPTIAL INQUIRY

*In accord with the directives of the Bishops of the Province of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, the Diocese of Duluth asks that all couples complete a 6-month period of marriage preparation. This Questionnaire must be filled out at the **beginning** of the marriage preparation process in order to ensure that both parties to the marriage are free to marry before other preparation is conducted.*

#### GROOM

**Proof of Baptism is required. The Baptismal Certificate (with notations) of a Catholic must be issued within the last six months.**

Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Length of residence at above address \_\_\_\_\_ Current Religion \_\_\_\_\_

Present Parish \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ City, State of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

(Parish/Church) (City, State)

Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

#### BRIDE

**Proof of Baptism is required. The Baptismal Certificate (with notations) of a Catholic must be issued within the last six months.**

Full Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Length of residence at above address \_\_\_\_\_ Current Religion \_\_\_\_\_

Present Parish \_\_\_\_\_ City, State \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ City, State of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

(Parish/Church) (City, State)

Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

#### WEDDING INFORMATION

Date of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_ Presider \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_

(Name of Church)

(City)

(State)

Witness 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Witness 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Priest/Deacon coordinating preparation \_\_\_\_\_

## GROOM

Each party to the marriage is to be questioned **separately** by the priest or deacon preparing the couple for marriage. Placing his hand on a Bible, the man is to say aloud before the priest or deacon: **“In the Name of the Lord our God, I, [NAME], swear to tell the whole truth and only the truth concerning my freedom and intentions for marriage, so help me God.”** (A non-Catholic who objects to an oath may simply promise to speak the truth.) Whenever the party’s response has an asterisk (\*) next to it, provide an explanation in the “Notes and Comments” (p. 6).

### General and Spiritual Preparation

1. For Baptized Catholics: Do you practice the Catholic faith? ..... yes no  
Are you confirmed? (If no, see c. 1065, §1) ..... yes no  
During the past year, how regularly have you attended Sunday Mass? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How long have you known your intended spouse? \_\_\_\_\_ How long engaged? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you have any reservations about this marriage? ..... yes\* no
4. Do your parents approve of this marriage? ..... yes no\*

### Impediments to Marriage

5. Are you aware of any physical or mental defect which would prevent you from being able to have natural sexual intercourse with your future spouse? (c. 1084) ..... yes\* no
6. Have you or your intended spouse ever entered marriage before, even civilly? (c. 1085) ..... yes\* no
7. Have you ever received the sacrament of holy orders? (c. 1087) ..... yes\* no
8. Have you ever made a vow of chastity in a religious order or institute? (c. 1088) ..... yes\* no
9. Are you related to your intended spouse in virtue of blood, marriage, or adoption? (cc. 1091-1092, 1094) ..... yes\* no
10. Is there reason to believe that marrying your intended spouse would cause scandal or astonishment to others due to previous romantic relationships that you may have had? (c.1093)..... yes\* no

### Matrimonial Consent

11. Are you placing any conditions on your marriage consent? (c. 1102)..... yes\* no
12. Do you or your intended spouse have a pattern of drug or alcohol use which could affect your ability to fulfill the obligations of marriage? ..... yes\* no
13. Do you or your intended spouse have any history of diagnosed mental or emotional illness? (c. 1095) yes\* no
14. Have you ever been the victim of abuse? ..... yes\* no
15. Are you aware of your future spouse having any history of being physically or emotionally abusive? yes\* no
16. Are you marrying because of force or fear arising from people or circumstances (e.g., pregnancy)? (c. 1103)..... yes\* no
17. Is your future spouse currently pregnant? ..... yes\* no
18. Are you entering into marriage with the intention of being open to the conception of children? .... yes no\*
19. Do you intend to give your spouse the right to have children? ..... yes no\*
20. Do you intend to be exclusively faithful to your spouse? ..... yes no\*
21. Do you intend to enter into a marriage that is indissoluble and lasts until death? ..... yes no\*
22. Is divorce an option for you? ..... yes\* no

***The groom is to read the following statement and sign below:***

I declare, under oath, that I understand marriage to be an irrevocable covenant that is permanent, as long as we both shall live. I understand the responsibilities of establishing a partnership of the whole life, ordered toward the good of spouses and the procreation of children. I am entering this marriage freely, and I will remain faithful to my wife.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

- I personally vouch for the freedom of this man to enter into marriage.  
 Since this man is not known by me, I enclose a Freedom to Marry affidavit.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Priest or Deacon*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parish*

(Parish Seal)

**BRIDE**

Each party to the marriage is to be questioned **separately** by the priest or deacon preparing the couple for marriage. Placing her hand on a Bible, the woman is to say aloud before the priest or deacon: **“In the Name of the Lord our God, I, [NAME], swear to tell the whole truth and only the truth concerning my freedom and intentions for marriage, so help me God.”** (A non-Catholic who objects to an oath may simply promise to speak the truth.) Whenever the party’s response has an asterisk (\*) next to it, provide an explanation in the “Notes and Comments” (p. 6).

General and Spiritual Preparation

- 1. For Baptized Catholics: Do you practice the Catholic faith? ..... yes no  
 Are you confirmed? (If no, see c. 1065, §1) ..... yes no  
 During the past year, how regularly have you attended Sunday Mass? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. How long have you known your intended spouse? \_\_\_\_\_ How long engaged? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Do you have any reservations about this marriage? ..... yes\* no
- 4. Do your parents approve of this marriage? ..... yes no\*

Impediments to Marriage

- 5. Are you aware of any physical or mental defect which would prevent you from being able to have natural sexual intercourse with your future spouse? (c. 1084) ..... yes\* no
- 6. Have you or your intended spouse ever entered marriage before, even civilly? (c. 1085) ..... yes\* no
- 7. Have you ever made a vow of chastity in a religious order or institute? (c. 1088) ..... yes\* no
- 8. Are you related to your intended spouse in virtue of blood, marriage, or adoption? (cc. 1091-1092, 1094) ..... yes\* no
- 9. Is there reason to believe that marrying your intended spouse would cause scandal or astonishment to others due to previous romantic relationships that you may have had? (c.1093). ..... yes\* no

Matrimonial Consent

- 10. Are you placing any conditions on your marriage consent? (c. 1102). ..... yes\* no
- 11. Do you or your intended spouse have a pattern of drug or alcohol use which could affect your ability to fulfill the obligations of marriage? ..... yes\* no
- 12. Do you or your intended spouse have any history of diagnosed mental or emotional illness? (c. 1095) yes\* no
- 13. Have you ever been the victim of abuse? ..... yes\* no
- 14. Are you aware of your future spouse having any history of being physically or emotionally abusive? yes\* no
- 15. Are you marrying because of force or fear arising from people or circumstances (e.g., pregnancy)? (c. 1103). ..... yes\* no
- 16. Are you currently pregnant? ..... yes\* no
- 17. Are you entering into marriage with the intention of being open to the conception of children? ..... yes no\*
- 18. Do you intend to give your spouse the right to have children? ..... yes no\*
- 19. Do you intend to be exclusively faithful to your spouse? ..... yes no\*
- 20. Do you intend to enter into a marriage that is indissoluble and lasts until death? ..... yes no\*
- 21. Is divorce an option for you? ..... yes\* no

***The bride is to read the following statement and sign below:***

I declare, under oath, that I understand marriage to be an irrevocable covenant that is permanent, as long as we both shall live. I understand the responsibilities of establishing a partnership of the whole life, ordered toward the good of spouses and the procreation of children. I am entering this marriage freely, and I will remain faithful to my husband.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Signature of Bride* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date*

\_\_\_\_ I personally vouch for the freedom of this woman to enter into marriage.  
\_\_\_\_ Since this woman is not known by me, I enclose a Freedom to Marry affidavit.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Signature of Priest or Deacon* \_\_\_\_\_ *Parish*



**FOR MIXED MARRIAGES and/or DISPARITY OF CULT**

**I. DECLARATION AND PROMISE OF THE CATHOLIC PARTY (when the intended spouse is not Catholic):**

I, (name of Catholic), reaffirm my faith in Jesus Christ and, with God's help, intend to continue living that faith in the Catholic Church. At the same time, I respect the freedom of conscience of my partner in marriage. I promise to do all I can to share my Catholic faith with our children by having them baptized and educated as Catholics.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Catholic Party*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

\_\_\_ This Declaration and Promise has been made orally

**II. STATEMENT OF THE PRIEST OR DEACON:**

The non-Catholic party has been informed concerning the above Declaration and Promise of the Catholic Party (c. 1125, 2°). I believe both parties to be sincere.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Priest or Deacon*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**III. PERMISSION FOR THE MARRIAGE OF A CATHOLIC WITH A BAPTIZED NON-CATHOLIC**

*Pastors, parochial vicars and deacons assigned to a parish in the Diocese of Duluth have the faculty to permit their parishioners to marry baptized non-Catholics after steps I and II above have been fulfilled and the parties have been instructed about the essential goods of marriage.*

In accordance with the requirements of canon 1124-1125, I hereby grant permission for

\_\_\_\_\_, a baptized Catholic, to marry \_\_\_\_\_,  
*Name* *Name*

a baptized non-Catholic. The reason for this permission is:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Pastor, Parochial Vicar, Deacon, or Diocesan Official*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**IV. DISPENSATION FROM THE IMPEDIMENT OF DISPARITY OF CULT**

*In accordance with the dictates of canon 1086, a marriage between a baptized Catholic and a non-baptized person is invalid unless the necessary dispensation from the impediment of disparity of cult is first granted. Pastors, parochial vicars and deacons assigned to a parish in the Diocese of Duluth have been granted the faculty to dispense from the impediment of disparity of cult when a just cause for doing so is present. Steps I and II above must be fulfilled and the parties must be instructed about the essential goods of marriage.*

I hereby grant the necessary dispensation from the impediment of disparity of cult currently in effect upon the Catholic party to the proposed marriage, \_\_\_\_\_, so that he/she may validly contract marriage with \_\_\_\_\_, a non-baptized person. The reason for granting this dispensation is:  
*Name (Catholic party)* *Name (non - baptized party)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Pastor, Parochial Vicar, Deacon, or Diocesan Official*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

## SPECIAL QUESTIONS

*For each marriage enclose: Marriage Certificate, Divorce Decree and, if applicable, Death Certificate, Catholic Decree of Nullity.*

<b>A. PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S):</b>	<b>GROOM</b>	<b>BRIDE</b>
Full name of first spouse:	_____	_____
Religion of first spouse:	_____	_____
Date of first marriage:	_____	_____
Name of presider (at wedding)	_____	_____
Title of presider:	<input type="checkbox"/> Priest <input type="checkbox"/> Minister <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Official	<input type="checkbox"/> Priest <input type="checkbox"/> Minister <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Official
Is first spouse still living?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Was a civil divorce granted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have obligations toward first spouse?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes* <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes* <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have obligations toward children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes* <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes* <input type="checkbox"/> No
Was a Catholic Decree of Nullity granted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

*Whenever the party's response has an asterisk (\*) next to it, provide an explanation in the "Notes and Comments" (p. 6).  
(If necessary, attach a separate sheet to list all previous marriages)*

**B. TO CONVALIDATE A CIVIL MARRIAGE:** *Enclose a copy of a certified civil Marriage Certificate*

- a) Date of the civil marriage: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of civil marriage: \_\_\_\_\_  
 b) Reason why the parties were not married in a Catholic Church: \_\_\_\_\_

### OTHER ACTS TO PRECEDE THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE (where applicable)

**REMINDER:** *A priest or deacon not assigned to your parish needs to be properly delegated to be the official witness of a marriage in your parish. A template form for delegation can be found on the Diocese of Duluth website.*

#### **PERMISSION FOR THE MARRIAGE TO BE CELEBRATED IN ANOTHER PARISH**

I hereby permit the marriage of my parishioner to be celebrated lawfully outside of his/her proper parish (c.1115).

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Pastor*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

#### **APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION FROM THE CANONICAL FORM OF MARRIAGE**

Clergy of the Diocese of Duluth **do not** possess the necessary faculty to dispense a Catholic party to a marriage from the obligation to observe the canonical form of marriage for Catholics. This dispensation must be sought from the Bishop of Duluth. If a dispensation from the canonical form of marriage is being sought, please fill out the information below and send *the entire, completed Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire to the Chancery at least one month before the wedding.*

**The canonical reason(s) for requesting dispensation:**

- To achieve family harmony or avoid family alienation  
 To obtain parental agreement to the marriage  
 To recognize the significant relationship or friendship with a non-Catholic minister  
 To permit the marriage in a church that has particular importance for the non-Catholic  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*It is the expectation of the Bishop of Duluth that a marriage celebrated with a dispensation from canonical form will take place in a church building. Such a dispensation is granted by the local Ordinary of the Catholic party. The marriage papers are to be filed in the parish where they were filled out and from which the application for dispensation was made. Filing is always accompanied by recording the marriage and making proper notation in baptismal records.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Priest or Deacon*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parish, City, State*

**All marriage preparation documents must be sent to the Diocese of Duluth Chancery at least one month before the date of the proposed wedding, when the marriage in question is to be celebrated outside of the Diocese of Duluth.**

**PERTINENT MINNESOTA LAW**

1. A person must be 18 years of age to marry without consent of parents. If they are at least 16, consent of parents or guardians must be given.
2. Witnesses to marriage must be at least 16 years of age.
3. Parties to the marriage may not be more closely related than second cousins.

<b><i>VISUM EST</i></b> (IMPRESS SEAL)	
_____	
<i>Signature of Diocesan Official</i>	
_____	
<i>Title of Diocesan Official</i>	
_____	_____
<i>Name of Arch/Diocese</i>	<i>Date</i>

<b><i>NIHIL OBSTAT</i></b> (IMPRESS SEAL)	
_____	
<i>Signature of Diocesan Official</i>	
_____	
<i>Title of Diocesan Official</i>	
_____	_____
<i>Name of Arch/Diocese</i>	<i>Date</i>

**NOTES AND COMMENTS**

**The priest or deacon is to record any reservations or concerns about the marriage below; additional pages may be added. Also, whenever the party's response on pages 2, 3 and 5 has an asterisk (\*) next to it, an explanation is to be provided below.**

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