

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony

Praenotanda

Supplemental Information

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The Order of Celebrating Matrimony

Praenotanda

Expanded *Praenotanda*
(former rite, 18 articles)

- 1-11: Theology of Marriage
- 12-27: Duties and Ministries
- 28-32: Preparation
- 33-38: The rite to be used
- 39-44: Adaptations by the Conference of Bishops



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The Order of Celebrating Matrimony

Praenotanda: Theology of Marriage

- Conjugal covenant freely given
- Fidelity and indissoluble unity
- Procreation
- Christ raises the institution to a sacrament
- Unity of Christ and the Church



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Praenotanda: Theology of Marriage

“Through this Sacrament the Holy Spirit brings it about that, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her, Christian spouses also strive to nurture and foster their union in equal dignity, mutual giving, and the undivided love that flows from the divine font of charity. In this way, uniting divine and human realities, they persevere in good times and in bad, faithful in body and mind, remaining complete strangers to any adultery and divorce.”

--*Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, 9

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Praenotanda: Theology of Marriage

“The true development of conjugal love and the whole meaning of family life, without diminishment of the other ends of Marriage, are directed to disposing Christian spouses to cooperate wholeheartedly with the love of the Creator and Savior, who through them increases and enriches his family from day to day. Therefore, trusting in divine Providence and developing a spirit of sacrifice, they glorify the Creator and strive for perfection in Christ, as they carry out the role of procreation with generous, human and Christian responsibility.”

--*Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, 9

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Praenotanda: Duties and Ministries

- Pastoral and liturgical care belongs to the bishop, pastors and associates, and to the entire community
- Bishop is responsible for norms and guidelines
- Pastors are to preach and catechize about Christian marriage; offer marriage preparation; provide a “fruitful liturgical celebration of Marriage” and help those who are married
- Marriage prep must be a “suitable time”
- Couples are to be informed of the preparation process
- Engaged couples should be catechized about Marriage
- Catholics should be confirmed before Marriage (if without inconvenience)
- Recommends engaged couples participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation beforehand
- Any impediments must be taken care of beforehand

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Praenotanda: Duties and Ministries

- Opportunity for Evangelization (OCM, 20): “Pastors should endeavor to evangelize the couple’s authentic and mutual love in light of the faith.”
- A pastor is not permitted to celebrate the Marriage if a couple openly rejects what the Church intends for Marriage
- Fitting for the priest who prepares the couple to celebrate the liturgy (Homily, consent, Mass)
- Deacon may preside
- Delegated laypersons may preside if there is a shortage of priests/deacons
- Laity may serve in the liturgy and prepare the couple
- Takes place in the parish of one of the engaged persons or elsewhere with permission

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Praenotanda: The Preparation

- Participation of the parish community
- May take place at Sunday Mass
- Normally celebrated at Mass*
- Prepared with the couple
 - Readings
 - Consent
 - Blessing of Rings
 - Nuptial Blessing
 - Universal Prayer
 - Chants
 - Cultural Adaptations

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Praenotanda: The Preparation

- Appropriate chants and other musical selections
- Notes importance of the Psalm
- Festive nature should be expressed
- If Marriage occurs during a penitential time, couple is to be counseled
- Weddings may not occur on Good Friday and Holy Saturday

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Praenotanda: The Rite to Be Used

- Ritual Mass for Marriage is used unless otherwise specified the Table of Liturgical Days (1-4)
- If the Ritual Mass is prohibited, at least 1 reading from the Marriage rite may be done
- If Marriage occurs during a penitential time, couple is to be counseled
- Weddings may not occur on Good Friday and Holy Saturday
- Mass is preferred
- Non-Catholic
- Catechumen, Non-Christian

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