

Parish of marriage _____

Date of marriage _____ at _____

Marriage is an important event with serious consequences for you, for the Church and for society. I will therefore ask you certain questions which you are requested to answer sincerely and truthfully. With your hand on the Gospel (in the case of a non-Christian: On your honour), do you swear to tell the truth concerning what you will be asked? A: _____

CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS STATUS

1. Family name: _____ First name: _____
underline the name habitually used
2. Occupation: _____ Years of scolarity _____
3. Born on ² _____ at _____
municipality province country
4. Present domicile: address _____ telephone _____
parish _____ since _____
5. Future domicile: address _____ telephone _____
6. Father _____ place of his birth _____
Adress _____
7. Mother _____ place of her birth _____
Adress _____
8. Religion _____ baptized on _____ at _____ Parish _____
9. Proof of birth and baptism : by extract or certificate ³ dated _____
in the register of this parish _____ by affidavit
year page number
Proof of confirmation: by certificate ; in the register of this parish ; by affidavit

MARRIAGE CONTRACT, WITNESSES

10. Do you intend to sign a marriage contract? _____ name of notary? _____
address _____
11. Who will be your witness? _____
name relationship

RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL FREEDOM FROM PREVIOUS MARRIAGE BONDS ⁴

12. Have you previously contracted marriage ⁵ before a minister of religion? _____ a civil officer? _____
with whom? _____ where? _____ when? _____
Was this marriage dissolved by the death of your husband? _____ death certificate
Was it declared null by the Catholic Church? ⁶ _____ document
and by the civil authority? ⁷ _____ document
13. Has your future husband been married previously? (religiously or civilly) _____

MARRIAGE PREPARATION ⁸

14. How long have you been courting each other? _____
15. What type of preparation have you had for marriage? _____
16. Are you planning to have a medical examination in preparation for your marriage?⁹ _____

IMPEDIMENTS, PERMISSIONS AND DISPENSATIONS

17. **Consanguinity:** (c.1091) Are you and your fiancé related by blood? _____
How ¹⁰ _____
18. **Affinity:** (c.1092) Is your future husband related by blood to your former husband? _____
Are you related by blood to the deceased wife of your future husband? _____
19. **Disparity of worship:** (c .1086) Are you both baptized? ¹¹ _____
20. **Other impediments:** nonage, c. 1083 § 1 ¹²; impotence, c.1084; sacred orders, c.1087; vows, c.1088; abduction, c.1089; crimen, c.1090; public decency, c.1093; adoption, c.1094; mental inaptitude, c.1095 ¹³.
21. **Mixed marriage:** (c.1124) Is either of you baptized in a church other than Roman Catholic? ¹⁴ _____
22. **Nonage:** (c. 1083§ 2) ¹⁵ Do you have the required legal consent to get married? _____
23. **Canonical reasons** for a request for dispensation: (c.90) _____

DECLARATION OF INTENTION ¹⁶

A

or

B

The day of my wedding before the Christian community represented by my relatives and friends, I will, in the presence of God, freely and without compulsion, commit myself to create with _____ a true community of life and love, according to the understanding of the Church, and consecrated by Christ through the sacrament of marriage.

I want to establish, through this mutual commitment, a sacred bond between us which nothing will destroy during our lifetime.

I commit myself to be a true support for my husband and to do all I can to make our love, which is a gift from God, grow in complete faithfulness.

I commit myself to working with him in order to develop our interpersonal relationships so that they may constantly enrich our love and the life of each one of us.

I choose to give life and I will welcome with love the children born out of our marriage. Together with my husband I will educate them according to human and Christian values, giving the best of myself.

I believe that our love is a call to always go beyond our limits, putting ourselves constantly at the service of the others in our family, in society and in the Christian community, in working with all people for a more caring, more just and more peaceful world.

I believe that in the sacrament of marriage Jesus commits himself to us and consecrates our commitment to one another. It is with Him among us, that we will be able to answer His call.

Enlightened by the Gospel, nourished by the sacraments and sustained by the Church I am going to devote all my energies to this life-long commitment.

Do you acknowledge that marriage is for the good of the couple and for the procreation and education of children? _____

Is it your intention to order your married life to these ends?

Do you acknowledge that marriage joins the parties to each other for life, in total fidelity and that it can be dissolved only by the death of one of them? _____

(To be omitted in the case of a non-Christian)

Do you acknowledge that marriage is a sacrament i.e. that Jesus Christ is present in some special way to the couple who celebrate a Christian marriage? _____

Do you acknowledge that Christian marriage implies a responsibility for the couple to live their new life according to the Gospel? _____

(If the Catholic party is not practising, has a doubtful faith or no longer has the faith)

Is it your intention to allow your husband freedom to practice his religion and to allow your children to be baptized and educated in the Catholic faith? _____

Is your decision to get married a personal one; have you decided freely and without compulsion? _____

I understand that this declaration is binding

Signed at _____ Parish, on _____

Parish Seal

Bride

Priest

Parish of marriage _____

Date of marriage _____ at _____

Marriage is an important event with serious consequences for you, for the Church and for society. I will therefore ask you certain questions which you are requested to answer sincerely and truthfully. With your hand on the Gospel (in the case of a non-Christian: On your honour), do you swear to tell the truth concerning what you will be asked? A: _____

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RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL FREEDOM FROM PREVIOUS MARRIAGE BONDS ⁴

12. Have you previously contracted marriage ⁵ before a minister of religion? _____ a civil officer? _____
with whom? _____ where? _____ when? _____
Was this marriage dissolved by the death of your wife? _____ death certificate
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and by the civil authority? ⁷ _____ document
13. Has your future wife been married previously? (religiously or civilly) _____

MARRIAGE PREPARATION ⁸

14. How long have you been courting each other? _____
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Signed at _____ Parish, on _____

Parish Seal

Bridegroom

Priest

1. The goal of the Prenuptial Inquiry is to collect data for an upcoming marriage: identity of the parties, their civil and religious freedom to marry, their degree of preparation to a Christian marriage, their intention as to the essential elements and properties of matrimonial commitment. Normally, this inquiry is conducted separately. For more information, please consult the *Canonical and Pastoral Guide for Parishes*.
2. The first meeting with the future spouses is, for the person conducting the inquiry, an occasion to ask certain questions about their age (question 3), religion (question 8), domicile (question 4) and freedom from previous bond (questions 12-13). The Prenuptial Inquiry as such will take place later when the preparation of the couple has been undertaken.
3. A Catholic party will prove his/her Baptism only with a certificate or an extract:
 - issued by a parish and not the *État civil*
 - not older than 6 months
 - clearly establishing the existence or absence of previous marriage, or holt orders, or vow.

It is now necessary to request a civil certificate of birth.

4. In the case of a Catholic party, a certificate or an extract fulfilling the conditions mentioned in paragraph 3 will be sufficient to prove his/her freedom to marry. For a non-Catholic, a civil document, such as a civil certificate of freedom to marry, passport or a family booklet, can be used to establish his/her freedom to marry. In case of doubt or if it is impossible to provide these documents, two witnesses may give a sworn statement to the effect that the party is free to marry (Form 2) or a solemn declaration before a civil officer.
5. It may become necessary to verify if more than one marriage took place before the upcoming one. In this case, names of spouses, dates and places of celebration must be given.
6. It is very important to establish that no restrictive clause is attached to the decision of the Ecclesiastical Tribunal. In the case of a *monitum* or a *vetitum*, the Diocesan Chancery Office must be consulted. The Decree of Freedom must also be kept in the file.
7. The definitive judgment of divorce or the decree of dissolution of the civil union must be kept in the marriage file.
8. The person conducting the Prenuptial Inquiry should enquire about the preparation of the couple, their understanding of married life as taught by the Church and their attitude toward Christian faith. If need be, he/she could help them perfect their knowledge and improve their approach.
9. Civil Law demands that the couple be encouraged to go through a medical examination in preparation of their upcoming marriage. Thus they can exchange information about their respective health and eventually discover in time some physiological deficiencies in regards to sexual intercourse.
10. The family tree allows the discovery of any blood relationships between the parties. Civil law prohibits marriage between persons who are related:
 - in the direct line of consanguinity;
 - in the collateral line, in the second degree as brother and sister, or half-brother and half-sister;
 - in the collateral line, in the second degree by adoption, that is brother and sister.
11. A dispensation for the Catholic party is required if the other party is not baptized. In this case, a nuptial Mass must not be celebrated, but only a Liturgy of the Word and the Rite of Marriage. Canonical reasons to support a request for dispensation could be: peace between families; good of the spouse; hope of conversion; everything is ready for the marriage; assurance that the unbaptized party will honour his/her commitment, etc.
12. In Canada, dispensation is not granted for the impediment of non-age (16 for a young man and 14 for a young woman). In accordance with can. 1083 §2, minimum age for the licit celebration of marriage in Canada is 18 years old (CCCB Decree n. 12).
13. When opportune, the priest will enquire concerning the state of mental health of the spouses. He will ask each one if either has suffered of a serious nervous depression, or from any other deficiency or mental illness. If he receives an affirmative answer, he will refer to the Chancery Office.
14. Mixed marriage does not require a dispensation, but a permission from the competent authority.
15. Civil Law demands the written consent of the father, mother or guardian before a marriage of a minor can be authorized.
16. Two forms of Declaration are proposed here; both can be used as an occasion to deepen the understanding of the couple as to their matrimonial commitment. The person conducting the interview can use either one of them.