

PRENUPTIAL INVESTIGATION FOR PARISHES OF THE BYZANTINE METROPOLITAN CHURCH SUI IURIS OF PITTSBURGH, USA

ARCHEPARCHY OF PITTSBURGH EPARCHY OF PASSAIC EPARCHY OF PARMA EPARCHY OF VAN NUYS

PART I – THE INITIAL MEETING WITH THE COUPLE

The purpose of this initial meeting of the pastoral minister with every couple is to establish an atmosphere of welcome, to clarify the basics of the marriage preparation process and to verify their freedom to marry.

Groom

Bride

_____ NAME _____

_____ CURRENT ADDRESS _____

_____ CITY OF CURRENT RESIDENCE _____

_____ STATE, ZIP CODE _____

_____ HOME AND/OR CELL PHONE NUMBER _____

_____ WORK PHONE NUMBER _____

_____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

_____ RELIGION AND CHURCH SUI IURIS _____

_____ CURRENT PARISH _____

_____ OCCUPATION _____

_____ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER _____

_____ AGE* _____

NONE or _____ NUMBER OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES** NONE or _____

* ***If a party be under age 18, please complete form A-2.***

** ***Any previous marriage(s) must have ended either by death or by a Catholic decree of nullity or dissolution before any date may be reserved with the Catholic Church for this couple's proposed marriage (please complete form A-3). If a couple have already entered a civil marriage with another, please complete form A-4.***

PROPOSED DATE FOR THE MARRIAGE: _____ / _____ / _____ / HOUR: _____

PROPOSED CHURCH/SITE FOR THE MARRIAGE: _____

CITY, STATE OF THE PROPOSED MARRIAGE: _____

NAME OF PASTORAL MINISTER PREPARING COUPLE: _____

GROOM:

Father's name

Mother's maiden name

Father's religion

Mother's religion

If Catholic, father's Church sui iuris

If Catholic, mother's Church sui iuris

1. Were you baptized? **(Complete Part III as available.)**
 If yes, obtain and submit a recent copy of your baptismal certificate.
 (A Catholic must obtain a new certificate, one issued in the past six months).
 If not baptized a Catholic, two affidavits of freedom are needed **(form A-1)**.
2. Are you related to the bride by blood (kinship)? yes* no
3. Are you related to the bride as an in-law to her? yes* no
4. Are you related to the bride by adoption? yes* no
5. Are you a baptismal sponsor to the bride or a relative of hers? yes* no
6. Were you ever ordained a deacon or a priest? yes* no
7. Did you make a profession of vows in a religious order? yes* no
8. Have your parents expressed opposition to this wedding? yes* no
9. Do you want to enter a truly Christian marriage: one that is permanent, exclusive and open to children? yes no

BRIDE:

Father's name

Mother's maiden name

Father's religion

Mother's religion

If Catholic, father's Church sui iuris

If Catholic, mother's Church sui iuris

1. Were you baptized? **(Complete Part III as available.)**
 If yes, obtain and submit a recent copy of your baptismal certificate.
 (A Catholic must obtain a new certificate, one issued in the past six months).
 If not baptized a Catholic, two affidavits of freedom are needed **(form A-1)**.
2. Are you related to the groom by blood (kinship)? yes* no
3. Are you related to the groom as an in-law to him? yes* no
4. Are you related to the groom by adoption? yes* no
5. Are you a baptismal sponsor to the groom or a relative of his? yes* no
7. Did you make a profession of vows in a religious order? yes* no
8. Have your parents expressed opposition to this wedding? yes* no
9. Do you want to enter a truly Christian marriage: one that is permanent, exclusive and open to children? yes no

**If affirmative, clarify the existence of any possible impediment(s) to the marriage.*

Normally some pre-marital inventory is to be taken prior to the couple's participation in an approved marriage preparation program. A pastoral minister may, if necessary, offer private instructional sessions to them. The groom and bride acknowledge, by their signatures, the truthfulness of their answers and that the marriage preparation process has been clearly explained to them.

SIGNATURE OF THE GROOM

_____/_____/_____
DATE

SIGNATURE OF THE BRIDE

PART II
(IN FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS)

THE BRIDE:

This second part of the prenuptial investigation is done after the couple has participated in an approved marriage preparation program or has had at least a thorough marital instruction by the pastoral minister. The bride must be interviewed alone. The pastoral minister proposes the questions and records the response. The bride is to review the answers before signing her name.

1. Do you promise to answer truthfully? yes no
2. Did you do a premarital inventory? yes no
3. Are you free to marry? yes no
4. Is there any person or circumstance forcing you to marry? yes** no
5. Is any person or circumstance forcing the groom to marry? yes** no
**If so, indicate the source of the pressure: _____
6. How long have you been dating each other? _____
7. When did you become formally engaged? _____
8. Are you aware of any physical or psychological difficulty that might prevent the proper fulfillment of your marriage duties? yes no
If so, explain: _____
9. Do you understand that if you have needed treatment for a drug, alcohol, mental, emotional, or behavioral problem that such matters should be discussed with the groom? yes no
10. Are you concealing from the groom any important information about yourself, either from the past or present, that might affect the groom's willingness to marry you if he knew it? yes no
11. Do you understand the nature and obligations of marriage? yes no
12. Do you freely and without any pressure, direct or indirect, agree
 - a. to enter this marriage for life, that is, until natural death? yes no*
 - b. to give the groom the right to have children if God grant such? yes no*
 - c. to accept the obligation to be exclusively faithful to the groom? yes no*
 - d. to consent to this marriage without conditions, restrictions or reservations of any kind? yes no*
 *If no to any of the above (12 a-d), please explain: _____
13. Do you judge yourself capable of fulfilling these commitments? yes no
14. Do you believe that the groom is making the same commitments: yes no
15. Would you accept children lovingly from God and raise them well? yes no
Would you raise them as practicing Catholics active in the Church? yes no
16. *If you had a former marriage or relationship, have you properly fulfilled your obligations toward that man* N/A yes no
17. *If you have children from any previous relationship, have you properly fulfilled your obligations toward those children?* N/A yes no

SIGNATURE OF THE BRIDE

____/____/____
DATE

SIGNATURE OF THE PASTORAL MINISTER

PARISH SEAL

PART III
OTHER INFORMATION

The pastoral minister completes the items below so all is ready for the marriage.

1. Personal and religious data about the couple

Groom

Bride

_____ PLACE OF BIRTH _____

_____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

_____ CHURCH OF BAPTISM _____

_____ CITY, STATE OF BAPTISM _____

not baptized _____ DATE OF BAPTISM _____ not baptized

If a certificate of baptism is impossible to obtain, two affidavits (form B-1 or B-2) are included.

Complete the information about chrismation only if the person was not chrismated at baptism

_____ CHURCH OF CHRISMATION _____

_____ PLACE OF CHRISMATION _____

not chrismated _____ DATE OF CHRISMATION _____ not chrismated

FREEDOM TO MARRY VERIFIED BY:

Catholic baptismal record

Include two (2) affidavits (form A-1)

2. Ecclesiastical dispensations and/or permissions received

a. Type: _____ Date: _____

Protocol Number: _____ (Arch)Eparchy: _____

b. Type: _____ Date: _____

Protocol Number: _____ (Arch)Eparchy: _____

3. The source of Church delegation to bless this marriage

The priest by assignment or faculty is able to bless a marriage here in this parish.

The undersigned pastor, who enjoys the faculty to bless marriages in
_____ parish, hereby delegates
_____ to bless this marriage in this parish.

Otherwise, the attached statement verifies the delegation to bless this marriage.

Signature of delegating Catholic pastor

Date of delegation

A deacon cannot bless a marriage involving a member of one of the Eastern Churches