THE MARRIAGE process

1. INITIAL SESSION
   - DISCUSSION OF COMPENDIUM QUESTIONS
     Additional Sessions: Interchurch/faith Nonpracticing

2. PREMARITAL INVENTORY

3. ENGAGED ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE OR DAY
   (Branches: Delay or Proceed)
   - Development of Program to Remove Impediments to Marriage
   - Evaluate Progress

   Proceed to:
   - Engaged Couple Blessing
   - NFP Education
   - Liturgical Preparation and Follow-up
   - Rehearsal
   - Marriage
   - Post-Wedding Follow-Up
THE FOLLOWING PROCESS IS RECOMMENDED FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION WITH OPTIMUM CONDITIONS AND NO SPECIAL NEEDS.

CONTACT I
INITIAL SESSION
This meeting is a time to go over the entire marriage preparation experience and to begin the process of completing the necessary forms.

CONTACT II
DISCUSSION OF COMPENDIUM QUESTIONS
Couple meets with priest/deacon/parish director/pastoral minister to discuss theology of marriage and compendium questions.

CONTACT III
ADMINISTRATION OF PREMARITAL INVENTORY
Additionally, the parish staff/member or marriage preparation team/trained pre-marriage inventory facilitator is the person(s) responsible for arranging an inventory session. A premarital inventory is not a test or an instrument designed to measure the readiness of a couple for marriage. It is a means for allowing the couple, with the assistance of the marriage preparation minister(s), to explore and strengthen their relationship with each other before marriage.

CONTACT IV
PREMARITAL INVENTORY (FOLLOW-UP)
At this later meeting, the parish member or marriage preparation team member is the responsible party. This meeting is a follow-up session with the engaged couple and the minister(s) in which they focus on the key areas for discussion. In most cases, this requires only one meeting. However when several differences in critical areas are evident, it is appropriate to schedule more follow-up sessions.

CONTACT V
ATTENDANCE AT A MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROGRAM
Preparation programs, whether a diocesan conference or parish-based day, enable couples to concentrate more intensely on the many facets of married life so they may be more aware of all the dimensions of marriage. The program helps engaged couples explore and determine the strengths and weaknesses of their relationship in terms of their future life together.
CONTACT VI
CHRISTIAN SEXUALITY/
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING EDUCATION
This contact is for the purpose of catechizing the couple on the Church’s teaching regarding conjugal love and responsible parenting. **All couples receive a general introduction to Married Sexuality and Natural Family Planning in their marriage preparation program.** Further instruction in a particular method should include a course from an NFP provider that is approved by the USCCB.

CONTACT VII
LITURGICAL PLANNING AND FOLLOW-UP WITH THE PRIEST/DEACON/PARISH DIRECTOR/PASTORAL MINISTER
The priest/deacon/parish director/pastoral minister is the responsible person for this session and should review the areas already covered by the couple during their preparation. The minister can discuss with the couple any aspects covered by the couple during their preparation. If not already completed, a minister will also spend time taking care of the necessary canonical papers which have been explained in the initial meeting. These papers invite a discussion on the Church’s view of marriage. Finally, the minister and couple can devote time to more specific planning of the wedding liturgy.

CONTACT VIII
REHEARSAL
The priest/deacon/parish director/pastoral minister or church volunteer will lead this session.

CONTACT IX
WEDDING
The priest/deacon is responsible for the wedding ceremony.

CONTACT X
POST-WEDDING FOLLOW-UP
A diocesan priest/deacon/parish director/pastoral minister or parish mentor couple, or a facilitator of the diocesan newly-married follow-up program, leads this post-wedding follow-up session – which should be in the first year of marriage, preferably around six months – and deals with expectations, adjustments and building strengths.