

## DIOCESAN GUIDELINES

Contact your pastor at least 6 months before the anticipated date of your wedding.

Take FOCCUS Inventory.

Meet with priest or Sponsor Couple to review FOCCUS.

Register for Marriage Preparation Day or Engaged Encounter.

Check with your parish about music, flowers, photography, and rehearsal.

## ECCLESIASTICAL REQUIREMENTS

Baptismal Certificates must be provided. Couple must have known each other at least 6 months, and both must have attained their 18th birthday by the date of marriage.

Premarital affidavits, necessary in most cases, are to be filled out by two witnesses who have adequate knowledge of the persons for whom they testify.

For interfaith marriages, the promises and the dispensation are required.

## CIVIL REQUIREMENTS

Appear together before the County Clerk for license. If one of you is absent, a substitute may appear with an affidavit of the absent party, along with all necessary information to verify age and identification.

For ages 18 years and over, a copy of driver's license or birth certificate, and the license fee.

For ages under 18 years, a certified copy of the birth certificate is required, and one parent's written permission. If parents are divorced, parent with proven custody must give written permission. Those under age 14 may not marry without a court order.

There is a 72-hour waiting period after obtaining a license, which is valid for 30 days. For more information call your County Clerk.

Call the Family Life Office, 903.534.1077, X165 or X166, or email at [familylife@dioceseoftyler.org](mailto:familylife@dioceseoftyler.org).

### *Comments from participants at some recent Marriage Preparation Days . . .*

"It was a wonderful opportunity to be away from our normal day-to-day life . . . to focus on each other."

***"I think every couple, regardless of their faith, should be required to participate in this type of retreat!"***

"Thank you all for this wonderful opportunity."

**"I am aware now that Marriage is one of the dearest things in the Church."**

"I think our marriage will be blessed because we attended the day. It was a necessary stepping stone that every engaged couple should experience."

"I am glad to have had this experience of growth!"

"It was an excellent time to "breathe" and focus on our love and our importance to each other."

**"I wish there was more time!"**

"This class really let me focus on myself and us as a relationship, and has made me excited about the sacrament of marriage. I'm truly ready to commit myself to my spouse and to the family we shall become."

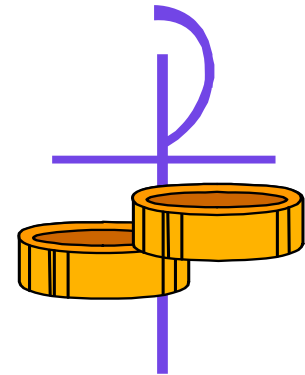
"It helped me truly realize all that does go into a marriage other than just the planning of the wedding."

"We are closer now than we have ever been!"

**"I wish that we would have had this day-long retreat before we got married the first time."**



OFFICE OF FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY



MARRIAGE PREPARATION  
DAY

## REGISTRATION FORM

(Please PRINT CLEARLY)

His Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First MI Last*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Catholic  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Parish/Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first marriage?  Yes  No

If no, then:  Divorced  Widowed  
 Children from previous union

Her Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First MI Last*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Catholic  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Parish/Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first marriage?  Yes  No

If no, then:  Divorced  Widowed  
 Children from previous union

His Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Her Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Priest/Deacon Officiating: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Preparation Day Circle one

February 4, 2012 August 18, 2012  
May 5, 2012 November 10, 2012

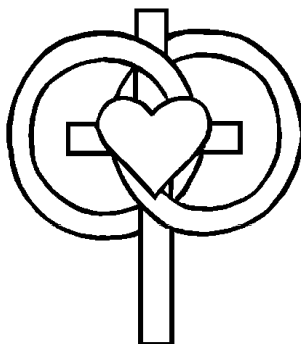
Registrations should be made no later than seven days in advance. Send completed registration form and check/money order, made payable to the *DIOCESE OF TYLER*, to:

Office of Family Life Ministry  
Marriage Preparation Day  
1015 ESE Loop 323  
Tyler, Texas 75701-9663

*A letter confirming your registration will be sent by mail.*

Your Church celebrates your love for each other and, because your decision to marry will be the most important decision of your lives, we offer you special preparation.

*February 4, 2012  
May 5, 2012  
August 18, 2012  
November 10, 2012*



**“Almighty and eternal God, you have so exalted the unbreakable bond of marriage that it has become the sacramental sign of your Son’s union with the Church as his spouse.”**

**-Book of Blessings**

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION DAY

The Marriage Preparation Day is a day-long retreat designed to give couples an opportunity to focus entirely on each other, and to dialogue honestly and intensively about their future life together. Interfaith couples, as well as those who are both Catholic, are most welcome.

The day is facilitated by a married couple trained in marriage ministry. Some topics covered include: personality styles, family of origin, communication, conflict resolution, faith issues, finances, children and family, marital sexuality, and God’s design for marriage—the marriage covenant.

### WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE DAY?

Concepts and skills proven useful in creating lasting and fulfilling marriages are presented by the facilitators. Each engaged couple is then given time to examine these concepts in light of their relationship. The format includes presentations, exercises, visuals, and reflective handouts, with emphasis on private sharing time for each couple. Time is also provided for questions, group interaction, and lunch.

### WHEN AND WHERE IS IT HELD?

Saturday 8:00 – 5:00

Catholic Chancery  
1015 ESE Loop 323  
Tyler

### WHAT IS THE COST? HOW DO WE REGISTER?

Complete the form in this brochure; total cost per couple is \$50.00 if paid in full at time of registration and includes all materials. Lunch is on your own. Couples who are unable to pay the amount are encouraged to discuss their situation with their parish priest. We will gladly work with any special arrangements.