

# Simple guide for Catholic Marriage In the Diocese of St. Paul, AB.

## 1. We have a Catholic Marriage:

- a) When at least one of the parties is a baptized Catholic.
- b) Canonical form has been observed:
  - Pre-Nuptial Investigation has been done.
  - Nihil Obstat granted.
  - Matrimonial Ceremony is performed by Catholic Clergy (*Bishop, Parish priest or a delegated Priest or Deacon*) or by Catholic lay people delegated by the Bishop.
  - In the presence of two witnesses (*adult – Canadian Citizen or at least permanent residents in Canada – not having any mental problem and able to understand the language and what is going on*)
- c) Place: at Parish Church or in a suitable place permitted by the Chancery Office

## 2. What should the fiancés do first?

- a) First, set an appointment to see the Catholic pastor of the parish where they live. At least six months before the date of marriage for people who have never been married before, or for whom an annulment has been granted by the Catholic tribunal, or if a previous spouse died (*bring a death certificate*).

Never been married means: The person never entered a marriage, in a Catholic ceremony or not.

If one of them has been married before, even outside the Church and civilly, and even after a civil divorce, they need more than six months to get an annulment of the previous marriage from the marriage tribunal in the Church.

- b) Take a Pre-Marriage course.
- c) Spiritual preparation implies attending mass and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## 3. Planning the wedding:

- a) Church reservation for the Matrimonial Ceremony:

If the wedding is to take place in the fiancés' parish, they make a reservation before their first meeting with the Pastor for Pre-Nuptial Investigation.

If the wedding is to be in another parish, they reserve the place and the priest's service as early as they can.

If the fiancés invite another priest to bless their marriage, they will get the delegation from their pastor who will secure for him a Clergy Registration number.

- b) Time: Any day except Sundays, Holy Days of Obligation and Holy week. Lent and Advent is not encouraged to have wedding as well.

#### **4. Wedding Celebration:**

- a) The presiding priest may have a wedding with, or without, the Eucharist. Mixed marriages usually are celebrated without the Eucharist.
- b) A presiding Deacon, or Lay person, will celebrate the wedding ceremony, without communion.
- c) Music and singing: a Wedding is a worship service, so Music and songs should be for worship. Taped music is not acceptable.
- d) Readings and Readers:
  - Readings: First Reading from the Old Testament – Responsorial Psalm might be sung – Second Reading from the Epistles – Prayer of the faithful.
  - Two Readers: Text of readings should be given to the readers before so that they have enough time to prepare them.
- e) Wedding decoration, photography and other things: Pastor's consultation should be sought first.

#### **5. Fees**

\$200 for the Parish Church and \$100 for the presiding priest or deacon or lay minister, plus the mileage if the parish or the family invited other priest or deacon.

There is no additional cost for paper and office work.

April 1, 2011

Fr. Peter Tran, J.C.L.

Chancellor