

Requirements

1. Marriage Weekend
 - a. Archdiocese
 - b. Those approved by pastor.
2. Correct info
 - a. Baptism Certificate
 - b. First Communion
 - c. Confirmation
 - d. No previous marriage
3. Marriage License
 - a. reimbursement
4. FOCUS
 - a. Take this
 - b. Will review this with them
5. Fill in Archdiocese sheet
 - a. Baptismal certificate
 - b. Go over any discrepancies
6. Cohabitation
 - a. Not to live in same house (options?)
 - b. Definition : (*For our purposes, we will accept the general definition which defines *cohabitation* as a situation where "a couple has been living together for at least four nights a week for an extended period of time, giving the appearance, at least externally, that they have formed a quasimarrriage relationship."³ (CT)
 - c. Negative consequences on marriage.
 - d. Contrary to popular belief, couples who live together before marriage have higher rates of divorce and domestic violence, and have a poorer quality of communication than those who do not. Studies show only negative results from living together before marriage. (Before You Say I Do., Bishop D'Arcy)
 - e. Psychologists find serious difficulty with **cohabitation** as a preparation for marriage. According to Dr. George A. Rekers, professor of family and child development, Kansas State University, research shows that 1) premarital sex has the strong potential to inhibit communication in a developing relationship and 2) there is a high correlation between premarital and projected extramarital sexual behavior. (**St. Cloud's Marriage Policy Regarding Couples Who Live Together Before Marriage**)
 - f. Concerning the problem of communication, Dr. Reker states that it is too easy to "continually avoid dealing with touchy but important issues through various levels of sexual activity, even at levels below sexual intercourse. Once an imbalance develops between emotional intimacy and physical intimacy, the effect can spiral in an escalating fashion as more and more sex is needed to offset growing anxiety about the underlying strength of the relationship."(SC)
 - g. *Cohabiting couples are more likely to:* Duck tough issues, **Repress anger and avoid criticism of each other's annoying behavior, Fail to develop realistic and satisfactory financial habits, Suffer strained relationships with parents, close family members and treasured friends. Struggle with an undercurrent of guilt**

by this violation of one's conscience or religious upbringing (Cohabitation Before Marriage By Joseph M. Champlin)

7. Practice for the wedding
 - a. Confession after so clean (optional)
 - b. Non-Catholics
8. NFP (class?)
9. Mentor couples (Meet with one?)
 - a. Talked with both sets of parents on marriage in some detail?
 - b. What are they fearful of?