

# A Check - Off List for Your Wedding Plans

Visit your parish priest at least six weeks before your intended wedding date. Do not arrange reception, vacation, etc., until you have confirmed your date with the priest.

If you share floral expenses with the other couples being married on the same day, it will save costs and avoid confusion between weddings.

Inquire about the manner in which the organist or other musicians are contacted and the customary offering.

Instruct the photographer to consult the priest on what is permitted.

Impress the necessity of promptness on the part of the wedding party for both the rehearsal and wedding.

It is suggested you and the members of the wedding who will be receiving Holy Communion, go to confession beforehand.

The Eucharistic Regulation: No solid foods or liquids for one hour before Communion; water and medicine may be taken at any time. The bride and groom may re-

ceive Communion under both species.

Each parish has its own regulations for the conducting of weddings. You will be expected to follow these rules. If you are not sure of the customs, ask the priest with whom you are making your arrangements.

A Protestant clergyman or a Rabbi may participate in the wedding ceremony. Arrangements for this should be made in advance with the priest marrying you.

The marriage should take place in the parish of the bride; for a justifying reason, it may take place in the groom's parish. Permission must be obtained from the pastor of the bride or groom to be married in another church.

A baptismal certificate issued not more than six months before the wedding must be presented to the priest by both bride and groom.

The following is the schedule of offerings: Low Nuptial Mass \$15; Sung Nuptial Mass \$20; wedding without Mass \$15.

Applicants for a marriage license must present physician's statement certifying to a pre-marital blood test, signed by physician and applicant. Statement must show date the specimen was taken, test completed, physical examination and name and address of laboratory making the test.

For minors (males under 21, females under 18) consent of both parents or guardians is required, either in person or notarized statement. All persons under 21 must present proof of age.

The fee for the marriage license is \$3.00. The license is valid for 60 days from the date of issuance.

Marriage may take place 24 hours after the issuance of license, providing that 3 days have elapsed between date on which the blood specimen was taken and the date of the license.

License must be filled out by the officiating priest and signed by the two witnesses. A copy will be sent to you. A marriage certificate may be obtained from the church at which you are married.

## Individuality Stressed

### The New Wedding Rites

There's quite a bit of room in the new marriage rites for the marrying couple to express their own individuality. In fact, the new rites stress individuality, meaningfulness and participation in the rite by relatives and friends.

The couple may choose scripture texts and prayers that have particular significance for them and they may also choose from a variety of optional

forms in the rite itself.

They may, for example, face the congregation when they make their vows; they may present the bread and wine for the Mass; they may have their relatives and friends read scriptural passages; and they may receive the Communion bread and wine both.

The changes in the wedding ceremonies began five years ago as authorized by the bish-

ops at Vatican II, and after try-outs in various parishes, the new rites became official last year in the U.S.

For the entrance rite, the priest meets the bride and groom at the church door, showing that the Church shares in their joy and welcomes them. The parents of the bride and groom may be in the procession escorting their son and daughter respectively, if the couple wish.

The three readings from Holy Scripture which the bridal couple have previously chosen for the Liturgy of the Word may be read at the lectern by someone in the bridal party or by a member of the families of the bride and groom.

The ceremony of the marriage consent and the blessing of the rings is shorter than the old form.

One change is that the couple are asked three questions about their freedom of choice, their intended faithfulness to each other and the acceptance and care of future children.

At the moment of speaking their vows the couples are now

urged to face the congregation or to turn directly toward each other so that the congregation may see their faces in profile.

There shall be an offertory procession at each nuptial Mass and the bride and groom shall bring the wine and water and hosts to the altar. To show their awareness of adult responsibility as a new family in society, the couple may also bring to the altar a gift for the poor.

Just before communion time, the priest will give the "kiss of peace" to the bride and groom. They will then show their peace and love for each other in an appropriate way and pass the greeting on to all present in the church.

## WEDDING DAY

*Elegance*



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