

Above All:

Marriage is a Sacrament

Marriage, by its very nature, is a most serious and sacred commitment. It is an intimate partnership requiring the total gift of oneself. Spouses are called on to draw closer to God and to each other in a lifegiving community of love. Christ enhanced the dignity of marriage by making the Christian marriage relationship a sacrament, a living sign of his love for the Church.

Following is the segment on Celebration of Marriage as outlined in the sacramental guidelines of the Diocese of Rochester in 1981:

In planning for the celebration of the Rite of Marriage, all who are involved should keep in mind that this is a liturgical and sacramental event. It is, therefore, a celebration of the faith community in which all are called to "full, conscious and active participation," and to which all the principles of good liturgy apply.

A. Weddings should be planned in accord with their spiritual significance, and especially with good financial judgment consonant with the gospel.

B. The ordinary place for the celebration of Marriage is the parish church of the bride.

1. When Catholics of different rites marry, the ceremony takes place in the parish church of the groom.

2. When a Catholic and a person from another Christian communion marry, the ceremony would ordinarily take place in the parish church

of the Catholic partner. However, for pastoral reasons, the ceremony may take place in the church of the non-Catholic partner, provided a dispensation is granted by the Pastoral Center.

3. Weddings may also take place in the interfaith chapels of campus parishes.

4. If a wedding is desired in a place other than a sacred building, permission from the Pastoral Center is required.

C. The couple should be involved in the selection of the various options the Rite offers: processional, scripture readings, vows formula, nuptial blessing and other prayers, and music.

Scriptural readings are not to be replaced by readings from other texts.

If vows are especially written by the couple, the formula must be consistent with the ends of marriage.

D. Music should have a value and appropriateness in keeping with the dignity of this sacrament. The three criteria presented in "Music in Catholic Worship" should be used in the selection of music at weddings:

- is it good music?
- is it appropriate for the part of the liturgy for which it is used?
- can the congregation participate in it fully and prayerfully?

All three criteria should be applied together. If the music

does not fit all criteria, it should not be used.

E. The diversity of liturgical ministers should be evident in the wedding ceremony. They should perform that and only that function which is appropriate to them (lectors, ushers, musicians, eucharistic ministers, presiders, servers).

1. The officiating priest deacon must have faculties from the bishop, or delegation from the bishop or the priest in whose parish the marriage is taking place.

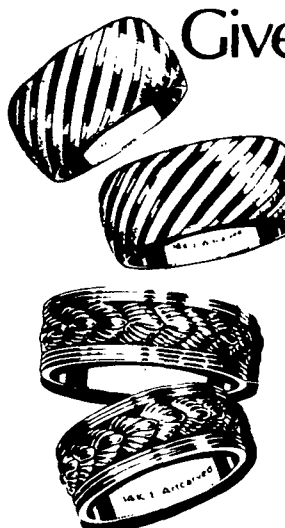
2. The two witnesses are present, not only for the civil purposes, but for the support of the couple in this commitment of faith. The witnesses should be of legal age, and be willing to help the couple in their new life together.

3. Liturgical ministers may be selected from among the relatives and friends of the couple.

All liturgical ministers should have sufficient preparation and rehearsal.

F. When a Catholic and a baptized person of another Christian communion marry, various pastoral considerations may call for the celebration of Marriage without the Eucharist.

G. In planning the time for their wedding, a couple should be sensitive to the demands of the parish schedule. Likewise, priest deacons should make reasonable attempts to accommodate the schedule of the couple.



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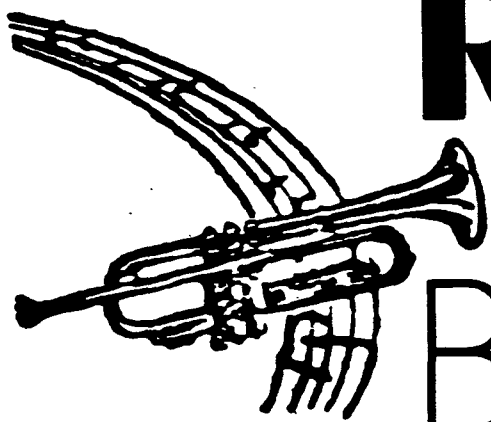

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	MAPLEDALE	OTHER	OTHER
1. An experienced manager and master of ceremonies to supervise that most important day of your lives.	Yes		
2. Assistance in obtaining bands, cake, photographer & invitations.	Yes		
3. Public Address system in each room so that special moments can be heard by guests, i.e. toast, prayer, bride's dance.	Yes		
4. Wedding cake served on china plates. More coffee served after your meal, with the cake.	Yes		
5. All gifts, etc. are packed and on carts, ready for your parents to take home.	Yes		
6. Plenty of free, supervised parking.	Yes		
7. Choice of red, gold or white tablecloths and napkins.	Yes		
8. A bud vase with a red rose on each table.	Yes		
9. Elevated head table & band stands, except in VIP Room.	Yes		
10. "YOUR NAME IN LIGHTS"	Yes		

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