

A Way to Ease Wedding Pressures

Whenever we hear of someone becoming engaged, there is a certain excitement as we talk with them. All of the usual questions are asked: When? To whom? Where are you going to live? Are you having a big wedding? Have you ordered your gown, or your tux? What about the flowers, the attendants? There is definitely enthusiasm emanated whenever the bride or groom speak of the forthcoming event.

Engagement should be looked upon as a special vocational state — that time in which the couple is preparing to be married. One of the questions we should also ask the engaged couple is: What type of a preparation program will you be participating in? Just as we prepare and train for our career, which may change several times during our working years, so should we prepare for marriage, the beginning of a vocation which is permanent, lifelong.

The Church wants the couple to be as well prepared for Christian marriage as possible. This is why there's a marriage preparation ministry. Marriage preparation is important. So important, many parishes are developing their own ministry to the engaged under the direction of the Family Life Office. Marriage preparation is designed to assist engaged couples in discovering their attitudes and values as they prepare for marriage in the light of the Gospel Message. The Church requires marriage preparation out of love and concern for the couple.

Engaged couples have the

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opportunity to learn from the lived experience of married couples who witness their belief in Christian marriage as a way of life. They have the opportunity to develop insights and attitudes that will be a part of their continuous growth which will eventually culminate in marriage. It is

advisable that couples experience their preparation approximately six months in advance of their wedding. This allows time to internalize what they have discovered about themselves and their intended well in advance of the hectic final weeks before their wedding.

The Memorable Gift

Picking out a wedding gift can be a headache, especially if the giver wishes the gift to be unusual, practical, and a meaningful one that will last throughout the couple's years together. Here are a few unique ideas.

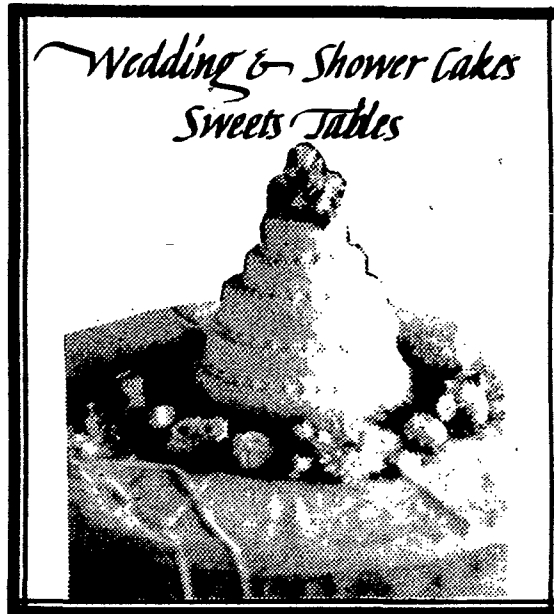
- A gift certificate for marriage enrichment in one year.

- Selected books like "Love is All" by Joseph and Lois Bird; "Secret of Staying in Love" by John Powell, "A Joyful Meeting" by Drs. Mike and Joyce Grace, "Living Happily Every After" by Thomas N. Hart, and "Marital Intimacy; A Catholic Perspective" by Anzia and Durkin.

- A family Bible.
- Meaningful plaques or a wall hanging to decorate their new home.

... THE TOAST ...

Mervyn J. Huston in researching his book, "Toasts to the Bride and How to Propose Them" (from which many of our hints are taken), found that there is an increasing tendency to direct comments of the toast to the couple rather than to the bride. If the toast is to the bride, however, be sure to make some comments about the groom. He is getting married also and should not be the forgotten man, and don't overdo the part about how lucky he is.



The flavors, fillings, and frostings — any size — are up to you!

Cake Flavors

- White Velvet
- Amaretto
- Chocolate Almond Fudge
- Orange Butter Almond
- Chocolate
- Sponge

Fillings

- Lemon
- Peach
- Raspberry
- Rum Walnut
- Custard
- Almond Cream

Buttercream Frostings:

- Amaretto, Grand Marnier, Raspberry, Lemon, Chocolate, Vanilla, Rolled Fondant, Whipped Cream Frosting

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