



Bishop's Office

DIocese OF ROCHESTER
1150 Buffalo Road · Rochester, NY 14624
(716) 328-3210

My Dear Friends,

First of all, let me take this opportunity to share with you my congratulations as you begin this important time of preparation for marriage. This is a special time in your life as a couple--a time to listen to the Lord's call deep within you. When you request marriage in the Church, you are saying "yes" to this call from the Lord to become the couple He wants you to become. Your love for one another is to mirror Jesus' love, so that when people experience your relationship it should be a sign to them of Jesus' love for the Church.

Your marriage is of great importance to the Church. Like the Sacrament of Holy Orders, the Sacrament of Marriage is a social sacrament. As a couple you are being commissioned to become the best sign of God's love you can possibly become. This sign (Sacrament) is not just for the two of you, but together you are being asked to love all those others who will be a part of your life. You become a witness of God's presence with us. Your marriage is your vocation, and marriage in the Lord is your call to holiness.

Your wedding is just the beginning of your commitment to become a Sacramental Couple. Your journey of marriage begins with the wedding ceremony, and does not end until death separates you. Like all journeys you can expect good times, and bad, sorrow, as well as joy, throughout all of your years together. This is a serious undertaking, and that is why I am so glad you are taking this time to prepare for marriage.

My prayers are with you as together you discern the Lord's call, as you prepare to respond to His call, and as you embark on your journey of marriage in the Lord.

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

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Member National Bridal Service

A Wedding Is a Day... A Marriage Is a Lifetime

By Michael and Janet Stapleton and Fr. Robert Ring
Engaged Encounter

The preparations have been monumental; church, reception, bridesmaids, flowers, rings, music, invitations and on and on. But wait a minute, what about the two of you. What are you doing to prepare for your life together as a married couple?

May we invite you to take a weekend out of your busy schedule just for the two of you.

Engaged Encounter is a weekend away. It is an approved marriage preparation by the diocese and provides a unique opportunity for the two of you to talk honestly and extensively about your prospective lives together. It is for engaged couples who have a definite commitment to one another. It

is primarily for couples being married in the Catholic Church, however it is open to all, including those planning an interfaith marriage or a Christian marriage in another church.

Through a series of ideas presented by a team of married couples and a priest, the stimulation is created to talk privately with each other on all aspects of married life - always from the viewpoint of your own relationship.

Personal reflection and communication are the main thrust of the weekend with communal meals and Sunday Liturgy providing group participation. It is a working weekend, not a vacation. The cost of the weekend is \$100 but there is financial aid available. No one will be turned away because of finances.

Won't you take some time just for the two of you? It will be time well spent.

Encounter Weekends:

KEUKA COLLEGE: Feb. 22-24; Mar. 15-17; Mar. 29-31; April 12-14; April 26-28; May 3-5; May 17-19; June 7-9; June 21-23; July 12-14; Aug. 2-4; Aug. 16-18; Sept. 13-15; Sept. 27-29; Oct. 4-6; Nov. 8-9.

For information and reservations: Mike and Mary Pat Smith, 55 Somershire Drive, Rochester, N. Y. (716) 338-1257.

The Toast

Mervyn J. Huston in researching his book, "Toasts to the Bride and How to Propose Them" (from which many of the following 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.

Usually it is the best man who offers the toast to the wedding couple. However, others like a favorite uncle or long time friend may also be asked to toast the happy couple. The occasion can be a nervous one especially for the person who is not used to the limelight, and of course the person giving the toast wants what he says to be just right for the occasion. Throughout this bridal section there will be hints as to how to accomplish this, along with quotes and ideas to help the toast-giver.

When the person giving the toast has completed his remarks it is time for the formal toast. It is the function of the person giving the toast to direct and coordinate this part of the ceremony. Don't rush it. If the audience is seated face them and say "And now, ladies and gentlemen, I shall ask you to rise." Give them time to do so. Then turning to the couple with your glass raised to them say, "We wish you health and happiness in the years that lie ahead."



WEDDING DAY

You can entrust the most important day of your life to the professional catering staff at the Rochester Plaza, A Stouffer Hotel. We'll handle every detail for you, for any type of celebration from an intimate brunch, to a champagne reception, to a formal dinner for as many as 700. Honeymoon Packages and special room rates for out-of-town guests are also available. For a tour of our beautiful facilities or more information, call our catering specialist at (716) 546-3450.

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