



Denise Walker/NC News
The liturgical ceremony is the final step in a decision-making process whereby two people with their own histories, friends, likes and dislikes, beliefs and unique gifts offer themselves to each other.

Revised marriage rite offers couples varied options for wedding ceremony

By Linda Quinlan

Once upon a time, priests followed a set ritual for wedding ceremonies, according to Father Thomas P. Mull, director of the diocesan Office of Liturgy.

Then came Vatican II, and in the early 1970s, the marriage rite was revised to include more options for individual couples, says Father Mull, who adds that the variety of possibilities has multiplied for readings from the Old Testament as well as responsorial readings.

"These options don't allow for other writings ... such as poetry," Father Mull cautions. "It's supposed to be the liturgy of God's Word."

Each couple being married in the

Catholic church in this diocese receives two booklets detailing all of their options, as they attend the marriage preparation class they select. Engaged couples may choose the traditional pre-Cana course, Engaged Encounter or New Horizons.

Couples may select the opening and communion prayers as well as the final blessing, and even have options for their vows.

Having the options, says Father Mull, "is a nice way to involve family (and) make the wedding ceremony a little more personal. We do urge couples to ask people they feel would be qualified to read properly."

Many couples don't realize they do
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