

# Marriage Preparation

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MARRIAGE PREPARATION | # 1  
LOVE FOR A LIFETIME

Foundation of our House





# Five Love Languages

## ONE - Words of Affirmation

We need to be affirmed (this can be written words as well as spoken ones) to feel built up, complimented and appreciated.

## TWO - Quality Time

Making time to give your future spouse undivided attention. 20 minutes of listening, talking and sharing feelings will really show love to your fiancé.

## THREE - Receiving Gifts

Giving is a real symbol of love. Gifts don't have to be expensive but do need to be thoughtful. Please be very careful with this one. It is possible to give gifts as a way of making ourselves feel better because we aren't spending enough time with our future spouse.













MARRIAGE PREPARATION | # 2  
LOVE FOR A LIFETIME

First Floor of our House

## Love for a Lifetime

### First Floor of our House

#### Experience of Home

As you strive to create this new identity as a married couple you need to know who you are and how you have been formed by your own families of origin. Look at the activity in your workbook and take time to fill in your response and compare with your fiancé

## Family of Origin

When two people marry they bring together two distinct personalities, ways of thinking and acting, expectations about negotiating emotional closeness, and styles of resolving conflict. Many of these factors are a result of our experiences at home with our own families. The task of a newly married couple is to blend and integrate these many factors into a style that they can call their own.

## A Wedding of Stories

Becoming married is a wedding of many stories. The legacy from our families of origin is kept alive by many stories. They are the foundation for our future.

# Reflecting Together

What is there about your family of origin that you want to be sure to include in the new family you are forming?

What is there about your family of origin that you would not like to continue in your new family?

“My Invisible Suitcase”

Please write your answers to the following questions in your workbook

# Family Rituals

What are “Family Rituals”?

Family Rituals are those family routines, the consistent and predictable ways of behaving, that give special meaning to couples and families.

Rituals are a highly condensed expression of family feelings, thoughts and values. Family rituals range from ‘family celebrations’ (celebration days, religious days, rites of passage) to less formal, less culturally defined “family traditions” (birthdays, holidays, visits to extended family), to the most individually defined and consciously constructed “family interactions” (bedtime or mealtime routines).

# Family Rituals

## Reflecting Together...

What are your memories of family rituals?

What were your family celebrations and family traditions?

How did your family members interact?

What would you like to take with you into your marriage  
and home?

Dear Lord Jesus,

grant that we may have a true  
and understanding love for each other.

Grant that we may both  
be filled with faith and trust.

Please give us the grace

to live with each other in peace and  
harmony,

and may we always bear  
with one another's weaknesses  
and grow from each other's strengths.

Help us, Lord,

to forgive one another's failings  
and grant us patience, cheerfulness  
and the spirit of placing

the well-being of one another before  
our own.

May the love that brought us  
together grow and mature  
with each passing day and may it  
bring us both ever closer

to you through our love for each  
other.

In our Covenant of Marriage,  
let our love grow to perfection.  
Amen.



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MARRIAGE PREPARATION | # 3  
LOVE FOR A LIFETIME

Top Floor of our House

# Top Floor of Our House Shared Vision

What do you see? Share with your partner



# Top Floor of Our House Shared Vision

## Twenty Questions

In the game in your workbook find out how much you know about what is going on in your partner's life. Choose ten numbers each . Find out how many you get right?

## Top Floor of Our House Shared Vision

The notion of ‘Love Maps’ is about measuring how much time and effort do I give to know what is going on in my partner’s life. How much is their life ‘on my mind’?

### Twenty Questions

In the game in your workbook find out how much you know about what is going on in your partner’s life. Choose ten numbers each . Find out how many you get right.

# Top Floor of Our House Shared Vision

## Faith in Marriage

How important is Faith to me and to you?

Look at the 'Religious Values' in your workbook.  
If you have a response which is two categories different from your Fiancée, then that is a small indication that you should talk about this further.

## **Top Floor of Our House Shared Vision**

### **Created for Love – ‘Gospel of the Body’**

On the Foundation level we talked about the languages of Love. St John Paul II talked about our bodies being a language which tell the story of God’s plan of love. When we consider marriage as the gift of husband and wife to each other we have a deeper understanding of our own bodies. The spousal meaning of our bodies becomes a ‘gospel’ revealing God’s vision and plan for creation. We are created for love.

# Top Floor of Our House Shared Vision

## Love

In order for people to love one another properly, they must first desire what is good for the other person.

Authentic love is not self-seeking, it is always self-giving. In other words Christian love defined:  
Giving versus using.

Love as attraction: recognising the good, the mystery, the uniqueness of another person; seeing the inner and outer beauty of another person.



# Top Floor of Our House Shared Vision

## Love

Love as desire: wanting this good for yourself, to be made whole, to be made complete; desiring goodness and happiness.

Love as goodwill: wanting the good and well-being of another person before your own.

# Top Floor of Our House Shared Vision

## Prayer for one another

Dear Lord Jesus, grant that we may have a true and understanding love for each other. Grant that we may both be filled with faith and trust. Please give us the grace to live with each other in peace and harmony, and may we always bear with one another's weaknesses and grow from each other's strengths.

Help us, Lord, to forgive one another's failings and grant us patience, cheerfulness and the spirit of placing the well-being of one another before our own.

May the love that brought us together grow and mature with each passing day and may it bring us both ever closer to you through our love for each other. In our Covenant of Marriage, let our love grow to perfection. Amen..



MARRIAGE PREPARATION | # 4  
LOVE FOR A LIFETIME

The Door of our House

# The Door of our House - Sacrament of Marriage

## **God is behind our Love**

God has entered our lives in a new way. We have found our partner and our future husband or wife. Through this our relationship to God has changed.

## **God is the Third Person in our Covenant**

God wants us to be together. This gives our love a Divine Light, a Divine Strength, a Divine Nearness, God is the Third Person, the Third Partner in our Marriage

## **Our Marriage Sacrament**

God created us for love. We have an endless source of love within us. Knowing that God's love carries and strengthens us is the meaning and aim of the Sacrament of Marriage.

# **The Door of our House - Sacrament of Marriage**

## **Planning your Wedding**

Some things are planned in the long term. Many things are actual on the days running up to your wedding

## **Some important things to think about:**

### **What kind of Service?**

There are two kinds of service in the Catholic Church.  
One is a 'Wedding service with Nuptial Mass'.  
The other is a 'Wedding Service without Mass'

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

A beautiful way to prepare for your Wedding Day is to go to confession.

# The Door of our House - Sacrament of Marriage

## Readers

There will be readings from the scriptures. You might like to ask some of your guests to read for you. You can discuss with the priest marrying you what readings you would like

## Witnesses

You must choose to adults to witness your wedding by signing the register. They don't have to be Catholics

## Music and Flowers

Your choice of music can transform the ceremony, A gift of the beauty of flowers can highlight the day.

# **The Door of our House - Sacrament of Marriage**

## **Photography**

The taking of photos and video recordings needs to be discussed with your priest beforehand.

## **Register of Marriages, and Donations**

Go to your Registrar Office, up to twelve months before your Wedding, not less than fifteen days - Application for a Wedding Certificate

## **Donations**

Catholic Churches usually do not have “fees” for a Wedding. However, a donation for the Church is always welcome

# The Door of our House - Sacrament of Marriage

## A Shared Blessing

Priest:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Father in heaven, we come before you tonight to ask for your Blessing. We ask you to bless in your love all the couples that are going to be married soon. Keep all harm away from them and may they always know how close you are to them in this time of preparation. We thank you for our Preparation Meetings together and for the thoughts and experiences we could share. Bless us all now and bless those who we carry in our own hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All:

Amen.

Speaker:

These are words that give us strength and confidence:

“Love is always patient and kind. It is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people’s sins, but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes.”



# The Door of our House - Sacrament of Marriage

## A Shared Blessing

(Blessing of the Couples)

Couples pray together:

I rejoice that I have chosen you in the Sacrament of Marriage...

I rejoice that you have chosen me...

Together we belong for always...

Accept me as I am...

with my limitations and my talents... with my hopes and with

my future... Wherever you go, I will go

where you live, I will live...

Together we will build the House of our Marriage... A House

built on the Rock of Jesus Christ...

Priest:

God, Eternal Father, bless and consecrate these couples in their love for each other. May the Preparations for their Wedding Day be blessed and filled with peace and joy. Draw them always closer to you and protect them from any troubles or worries. We ask you this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

And may Almighty God bless you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.