

## WELCOME

The Catholic community of St. Frances Cabrini congratulates you in your decision to explore the Christian vocation through the sacrament of Matrimony. We welcome you and are here to guide you and help you prepare for this very serious step through a process of prayer and discernment. We pray that you will open your hearts and minds to the wisdom of God and receive His guidance and help through us, His instruments.

## INTRODUCTION

As we begin this process, we ask that you keep in mind that the Catholic Church believes that Christian marriage is the union of a baptized man and woman who freely enter into a covenant of love with each other in Christ for the purpose of giving and receiving love and for the procreation and education of children. Married couples live their sacrament by the way they care for one another, love one another, and are enthusiastic for one another as husband and wife. In their daily love for each other, their children, and the larger community, they become a living sign (a sacrament) for all of how much Jesus loves and wishes to embrace us as His brothers and sisters. As they work their way through marital and family crises and struggles, they witness to the power of the Holy Spirit at work in all our lives. In order to live out this ideal Christian marriage, couples must have the ability to give and receive love and to sustain an intimate relationship. They must also have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and His body, the Church.

Therefore, we would ask that you as a couple reflect on the following questions:

*How committed am I to my (our) relationship with God?*

*How committed am I to my (our) relationship with the Catholic Church?*

*As a Catholic, have I celebrated the Sacraments of my faith?*

*Do I continue to nourish my faith through the celebration of the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation?*

*What are my motives for marrying in the Catholic Church?*

## SACRAMENTAL EMPHASIS

Marriage is a covenant relationship (*I will love you unconditionally*), and not just a contractual relationship (*I will love you if you love me*). The principal goals of marriage are the mutual love of husband and wife and the openness to new life.

The Sacrament of Matrimony has two important community dimensions:

1. Couples by their love for each other become living signs of how God loves and how he wants to embrace us as family.
2. A Catholic wedding is a celebration of the entire Christian community and not simply a private family function.

## QUALIFICATIONS

According to the teachings of our Lord, Jesus Christ, marriage is a union of life and love that is permanent and indissoluble! Every Christian is bound by this teaching. Any marriage contracted by a Christian is presumed as a permanent and indissoluble marriage (whether witnessed by a priest or deacon, by a Justice of the Peace or by common law). If you have been previously married you cannot enter the marriage preparation process unless your previous marriage can be dispensed or annulled. Please discuss this as soon as possible with the priest/deacon with whom you are working. No wedding date can be set until you are free to marry in the Church.

**PARISH RESIDENCE OR REGISTRATION:** For your preparation and marriage to take place at St. Frances Cabrini either the bride or her family or the groom or his family must be either a registered member of St. Frances Cabrini or reside within our parish boundaries.

**OUT OF PARISH WEDDINGS:** Couples from other parishes may celebrate their wedding at St. Frances Cabrini. However, since the parishioners of St. Frances Cabrini provide the financial support, maintain the Church and pay for all the expenses of its operation, including utilities and up-keep, and since weddings of persons from outside the parish incur expenses beyond the normal parish use of the facilities, a fee of \$300 is required of non-parishioners desiring to have their wedding celebrated in St. Frances Cabrini Church. A deposit of \$100 is also to be made at the time the wedding date is booked.

## SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

**INACTIVE CATHOLICS:** In the event that one or both of the parties are not active in the practice of their faith, additional instructional sessions will be provided to help them become active again as practicing Catholics.

**MARRIAGES OF YOUNG PEOPLE:** If either of the parties will be under 19 years of age at the time of the wedding: 1) at least six months must elapse after the completion of the Primary Marriage Preparation. 2) Parental consultation and completion of the canonical freestate form must take place.

**PREGNANCY:** If the couple had not planned to marry, pregnancy, of itself, will not be considered sufficient reason to enter marriage or to shorten the marriage preparation process.

**VALIDATION:** If the couple has entered a marriage outside the laws of the Church, a validation of the marriage is permitted after the couple has completed the assessment process of these Pastoral Guidelines.

**PREVIOUS MARRIAGE:** Any previous marriage (Catholic or non-Catholic) is an obstacle to marriage in the Catholic Church. The parties must disclose to the priest/deacon the fact of the previous marriage(s) in an effort to seek resolution.

**COHABITATION:** The Church has traditionally taught that sexual intercourse outside of marriage is contrary to the divine law. Times have not changed the Church's teaching with reference to this particular matter. Those who come to begin marriage preparations and are living together will need to enter into specific discussion with the priest/deacon. In the state of Texas, if you are living together, you are common law married. Only after the matter has been discussed will a decision be made concerning the marriage and the nature of the ceremony.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROCESS

All couples are asked to begin their preparation for marriage no later than 6 months prior to the proposed wedding date. The sacrament of Matrimony takes time and effort. It is not an hour-long ceremony, but rather a journey, which once begun, continues for the rest of one's life. The preparation for this journey also requires an investment of time and effort. Included in this preparation is the following:

- 1) The couple will be asked to take a survey that is designed primarily to be a facilitative instrument, raising questions and identifying concerns for couples so that they can think about and discuss these vital issues of marriage. It explores basic expectations, communication and problem-solving skills and attitudes on money, children, religion, sexuality and in-laws. In addition, it attempts to sharpen exploration on other key issues: couple compatibility/match, the impact of individual backgrounds, two-career families, interfaith marriages and even second marriages.
- 2) The choice of the *Unitas Marriage Preparation program*, the sponsor couple program or an Engaged Encounter weekend. At times, the minister preparing the couple may ask them to participate in more than one program.

*Unitas* is a marriage preparation process that contains several special elements: 1. Faith formation – we think that integrating faith in our lives is an essential ingredient for the journey toward Christian marriage. 2. Information about topics that concern engaged couples today. 3. Opportunities for building connections with the local Church. *Unitas* includes seven content sessions and at least three celebrations with your parish community. *Unitas* is structured so that you will begin by exploring the Catholic Church's theology or marriage. You will then work on developing communication and negotiation strategies. Next, we focus on you and on the family from which you have come. In the fifth session, you will explore intimacy and sexuality. In the sixth session, the discussion is on the nuts and bolts of the contemporary married life. And finally, we come full circle and discuss the spirituality of marriage.

In the **sponsor couple program** the couple will meet one on one for five meetings with a married couple who values their Christian marriage. The trained sponsor couple acts as a facilitator of communication on the topics of the context of marriage today, communication and conflict resolution, the meaning of permanence and ongoing forgiveness, the requirements of covenant (sacramental marriage),

the role of faith, prayer and Church in their marriage, roles, expectations and responsibilities within marriage, self-awareness, personal healing and individual growth in the marital context, sex and sexuality in the context of marriage and finally the value of children, responsible parenthood and natural family planning.

The other choice, the **Engaged Encounter weekend** is a Friday evening through Sunday afternoon for individual couples to reflect on and discuss their coming marriage through the same topics as in the sponsor couple program. This program, however, is presented by the Family Life Office of the diocese of Galveston-Houston and requires a fee that includes room, meals and materials for the weekend.

- 3) Once parts one and two have been completed, the couple then meets back with the priest or deacon to plan the wedding ceremony. Under the direction of the celebrant, the parish's director of the Office of Worship and the Director of Music, the couple choose the readings, prayers and music for the wedding celebration keeping in mind that the Wedding ceremony is a Liturgical Prayer, governed by the laws of the Church, in which the whole Church prays with them and for them. It should be noted that the wedding ceremony may take place either within or outside the context of Eucharist (Mass). The Sunday celebration of Eucharist is the norm by which to plan your wedding ceremony.

**DOCUMENTS NEEDED**

**BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE:** Catholics who are to be married, must present to the priest or deacon, a **recent** copy of their baptismal certificate. That is one which has been issued within six months prior to the wedding date. You may obtain your baptismal certificate by requesting it, either by phone or in writing, from the parish church in which you were baptized. The presentation of a recently issued baptismal certificate is a canonical (Church law) necessity. You should acquire it as soon as possible after your initial contact with the priest/deacon. Below is a sample request form:

*Dear Father:*

*Please send a copy of my baptismal certificate to the following address:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

My father's name is \_\_\_\_\_

My mother's name with her maiden name is \_\_\_\_\_

My date of birth is \_\_\_\_\_

The approximate date of my baptism is \_\_\_\_\_

The names of my godparents are \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you and God bless you.*

*Sincerely,*

(Enclose a stamped, pre-addressed envelope for their convenience.)

If one of the parties is non-Catholic Christian some proof of baptism is required. You may bring a copy of your original baptism certificate or a notarized letter from one of your parents or godparents stating that you indeed were baptized.

**AFFIDAVIT OF FREE STATUS:** Both the bride and the groom will be asked to have two witnesses sign the affidavit that they are free to marry. We recommend that you have your parents do this; it allows them to be a part of the process and a formal way for them to say they have no reservations concerning the marriage.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE:** A civil marriage license must be presented to the priest/deacon before the marriage can take place - no later than the marriage rehearsal. The license can be obtained through the county clerk's office. Proof of birth and a fee must accompany the application. For a license to be valid in the state of Texas, it must be issued no more than twenty-one (21) days and no less than three (3) days prior to the ceremony. A license issued in any county of Texas is good in any other Texas county.

## **THE WEDDING**

**DATE AND TIME:** The date and time of the wedding ceremony will be arranged with the priest/deacon who is preparing you for the marriage. This will not occur before your initial interview. Couples are not to make firm commitments regarding a date until after this initial interview. *If there has been a previous marriage, which can be dispensed or annulled, no date or time will be arranged until the dispensation or annulment is received from the Diocesan Tribunal.*

Weddings are normally celebrated on Saturdays, usually at 2:00 PM, but may begin as late as 2:30 PM.

The attendance at a wedding celebrated within the context of Mass on a Saturday before 4:00 PM does not dispense those attending from their Sunday obligation to attend Mass. (In other words, "It does not count for Sunday".)

Weddings must begin promptly at the time scheduled. The Church must be made ready for the celebration of Reconciliation and the evening Mass. Please, in consideration of others, inform all attendants, grandparents and parents of the proper hour.

**THE SEASONS OF ADVENT & LENT:** Advent begins four weeks before Christmas. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and continues to the Easter Triduum. During the seasons of Advent and Lent, according to the rubrics of the Church, weddings may **not** be celebrated with solemnity. Since Advent and Lent are the main penitential seasons of the Church, the lack of flowers and extra candles show the penitential character of the season. Therefore, no extra flowers, plants or candles may be introduced into the sanctuary during these seasons of the Church year.

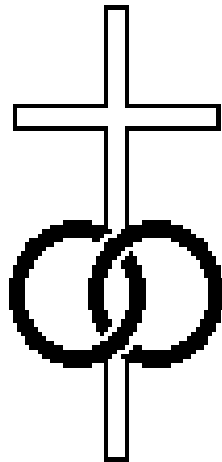
**ALL SOULS DAY:** November 2 is "All Souls" day in which the entire Church remembers and prays for the dead. Therefore, weddings are not allowed on this day.

**SIZE OF THE WEDDING PARTY:** Weddings are a celebration of God's love found in the lives of two people that is solemnized in the liturgical prayer of the Church. In order to preserve the reverence and dignity of the celebration no more than **six (6)** couples are allowed in the bridal party. Ring bearers and flower girls are not ministers, nor are their services required for the celebration of marriage. Couples will be asked to consider the age of children involved in these roles and whether their presence will add to or distract from the joyful solemnity of the

celebration. If couples choose to use ring bearers and flower girls, it is the policy of this parish that these youngsters be at least **four (4)** years of age.

**THE CELEBRANT OF THE WEDDING:** Ordinarily, the priest of the parish or one of the deacons will preside at weddings celebrated in the parish. On occasion, a couple may have a priest friend or priest relative they wish to invite to preside at the wedding or to assist at the wedding. In this case, the couple should mention this to the priest/deacon early in the process. The Pastor must grant delegation for any priest or deacon outside of the parish to officiate at a wedding in the parish. When the couple is of different faiths (i.e., Catholic - Methodist), the minister of the non-Catholic party may be invited to participate in the celebration. The priest/deacon should be notified of this so that he may include the minister in the celebration. Visiting priests will be asked to observe Church law and the policies and customs of this parish regarding the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

**THE REHEARSAL:** The rehearsal is scheduled by the priest/deacon. The rehearsal is normally the night before the wedding. Rehearsals, like the wedding, must begin on time. Even if there are persons missing from the wedding party, the rehearsal will begin on time. The priest/deacon may have other obligations that evening. It must be remembered that rehearsals are conducted in the church; therefore, shorts, cut-offs, baseball or cowboy hats, etc. are not considered to be appropriate attire for the occasion. Wedding party members should not come to the church for the rehearsal drinking or chewing gum.



## ART AND ENVIRONMENT

**CHURCH DECOR:** During certain liturgical seasons of the Church year, such as Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, a particular decor is used in the Church. The colors used by the Church should be considered when planning weddings, as these colors and decor CANNOT be removed or changed for any reason. Please speak to the director of the parish's Office of Worship in regards to what will and what will not be in the sanctuary for the particular seasons of the Church year.

**FLOWERS:** We at St. Frances Cabrini take pride in the beauty of our church and recognize its call to "noble simplicity". The use of flowers and other decorations can greatly enhance a wedding ceremony as they add much to the beauty of the event. However, because of the simplicity of our church, we believe that it needs simple adornment rather than large numbers of decorations. The following rules and guidelines are provided in order that the beauty of our Church facility be protected.

Arrangements for flowers are to be made with a florist. The church is usually unlocked on Saturdays around 9:00 am. However, the air-conditioning will be turned on in time for the arrival of the bridal party.

Flowers may be placed in the sanctuary, to the sides of the altar or the ambo, or may be used to decorate the aisle pews. However, no decoration is to be used which would obstruct the clear view of the worship symbols used in the sanctuary, namely the priest/deacon chairs, the altar or the ambo (pulpit). In selecting decorations, please keep in mind the sacredness of the ceremony and the simple dignified elegance for which it calls. No flowers are ever to be placed on the altar or on the table between the presider and deacon chairs.

Existing potted plants, seasonal floral arrangements, furnishings, etc. in the sanctuary are to be left in position. Your florist can plan on these items as background for the floral decor. Florists are not to presume that they may be moved or removed. Nothing is to be moved or removed without the explicit permission of the priest/deacon.

Potted plants must have waterproof pot covers or be provided with saucers.

In the Catholic Church flowers are a symbol of life; therefore, silk flower arrangements in the sanctuary are not considered liturgically correct. Only fresh flowers may be used.

Flowers/bows for the pews are allowed only if they are attached to the pews by using cloth wire, ribbon, or bow hooks. The use of any type of adhesive, tape, screws, nails, tacks, staples, ticki-tack, etc. is strictly not allowed. If aisle candles are used they must be protected by glass globes.

Wedding and floral decorations for Saturday afternoon weddings must be cleared away following the wedding so that they do not interfere with the Saturday evening Mass. Wedding and floral decorations for Saturday evening weddings may not be set up until AFTER the Saturday evening Mass and must be removed immediately after the wedding.

Flower petals may not be thrown in the aisle. Also, the throwing of rice, confetti, petals, birdseed, etc. is **NOT ALLOWED** anywhere on parish grounds.

**CANDLES:** Like the use of flowers, candles are allowed, but they must be arranged in a way so as not to hinder the movement in the sanctuary or the vision of the assembly. There should be nothing blocking the movement from the presider/deacon chairs to the altar or from the chairs to the ambo or from the ambo to the altar.

All candle arrangements must be made with a florist or another outside source. The parish does not have any candle holders for use.

Plastic sheeting (large enough to catch wax spillage) must be placed under candles to protect the carpet from collecting wax. This includes “dripless” candles.

Make arrangements with either your groomsmen or ushers to light the candelabras (if you are using them) approximately 15 minutes before the wedding is to begin. Remember that full dignity and decorum are expected of everyone when they are in the sanctuary/altar area.

**UNITY CANDLE:** The “unity candle” is a commercial product which has made its way into the wedding ceremony. There is no mention of its use in the liturgical documents of the Roman Catholic Church, nor is it a part of the ritual. This is an example of a gimmick. It has no real history or tradition behind its use. For this reason, we do not include the unity candle in weddings celebrated in our parish. We do encourage you to prepare carefully the many signs and symbols of unity already available in the Rite of Marriage, the exchange of vows being the most important.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographers are welcome, however, they must keep in mind that a wedding in the Catholic Church is a liturgical worship service and they must be sensitive to the service. Likewise, since most weddings are formal occasions, photographers should dress in a manner befitting the occasion. Open shirt collars, shirttails hanging out, blue jeans, etc. are inappropriate attire for photographers.

The wedding liturgy is a celebration of a sacred moment. While we understand the desire to record this moment, we ask that the following policy be observed so that the sacred joy of this day will not be marred by photographic and video taping equipment and personnel.

It would be a good idea to let people know that you have arranged for a photographer and that he/she will be taking pictures for you. Advise family and friends that you could use their prayers more than their pictures. Therefore, they can leave their cameras outside of the church during the ceremony. This will ensure that your wedding will remain a very dignified and religious experience for all who gather to be with you.

Pictures may be taken in the Church prior to the ceremony, but not within twenty minutes of the ceremony.

Photographs may be taken as the bridal party walks down the aisle during the processional and recessional. However, the photographer is **NOT** to stop the action or the movement of the processions.

Photographers or video tapers are not permitted to move anything in the Church, sacristy, bridal dressing room, chapel or any other part of the church even if the objects may interfere with the taking of pictures.

Flash pictures may be taken during the ceremony. However, if you have hired a true professional, the photographer will be able to take pictures so that flashes do not distract the ceremony. No additional lighting may be used for video photography. No additional lighting may be brought into the church.

Photographers are never permitted any closer than the first row of pews during the liturgy.

Video photographers must use a tripod and remain stationary. There are two places designated in the church for them - near the baptismal pool and near the choir area on the "Guadalupe" side of the church. We ask that he/she never walk around the church during the liturgy, as it is very distracting.

After the wedding celebration, the church will remain open for the taking of pictures. However, since the Sacrament of Reconciliation is scheduled to begin at 4:15 PM, we ask that you be finished and the church returned to proper order by 4:00 PM. We also ask that you, your bridal party and family members remember that they are still in church and proper respect and consideration must be given to anyone wishing to offer prayers in the church.

Please ask your photographer(s) to contact the director of the Office of Worship or the priest/deacon before the ceremony for any clarifications in our policy.

## MUSIC

A Roman Catholic marriage is sacramental, not just legal; sacred rather than merely secular; public, as well as personal. It is therefore of utmost importance when you are planning this significant event in your lives that the focus of the preparation be to help those in attendance to pray, the primary purpose of music in any liturgical celebration. The integrity and dignity of the Catholic liturgy must be respected and maintained. The wedding liturgy should be a mirror image of any typical Sunday liturgy in our community. That is to say, it should be very similar to the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist you attend here at St. Frances Cabrini. Please keep in mind that the rules of liturgical music and good liturgy for Sunday worship shall not be compromised for weddings.

St. Frances Cabrini parish employs a Director of Music. A meeting with the Director of Music is essential within one month of setting the date of the wedding with the priest/deacon. Plans for the liturgical music must be finalized by one month before the wedding date. There are some musicians in the parish as well as vocalists. You must arrange with them their fee, etc. These fees are to be offered no later than the night of the rehearsal. You are welcome to have friends, family members, or other “outside” vocalists or instrumentalists at your wedding. However, they will be expected to follow the principles of liturgical sacred music. Please consult with the parish’s Director of Music for further details. While the parish’s Director of Music is available for consultation as a service provided by the parish, if you choose our Director of Music (or the Director of the Spanish Choir) to sing or play at your wedding, you will be charged an appropriate fee for that service.

Many pieces of music that speak of love in purely secular terms are not appropriate for a wedding liturgy and would be more appropriate at the wedding reception. Music for the wedding liturgy **must express a sacred text.** Love songs from Broadway plays, secular rock, country and western ballads or “pop” music of any kind are not permitted before or during your wedding liturgy. As people begin to arrive, the Church is gathering for prayer and thus the principles of good liturgy are in effect.

Couples should bear in mind that it is the entire assembly that worships at the wedding. As much as possible, music, particular hymns, responses and acclamations, should facilitate active participation by the entire congregation. A soloist should, if possible, function as a LEADER of the assembly's sung prayer. A "Gathering Song" must be sung following the entrance procession (or during the entrance procession if you so choose). Also, the Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation must be sung during the Liturgy of the Word. If your wedding liturgy includes the celebration of the Eucharist, then all Eucharistic acclamations will also be sung, as well as a "Communion Hymn". A vocal or instrumental selection is recommended for the Presentation of the Gifts. The Lord's Prayer is a part of the liturgy that is expressly intended to be a prayer of the entire community. Therefore, a solo rendition of this prayer at its proper place in the liturgy is not permitted.



## ODDS AND ENDS

Respect for the church and its facilities and grounds must be shown at all times.

Smoking is NEVER permitted in the church, the sacristy, the bride's dressing room, the bathrooms or any surrounding areas.

Drinking is absolutely forbidden anywhere on the church grounds. NO alcoholic beverages of any kind - wine, beer, etc., may be brought on the church grounds, in the church, the bride's dressing room, the sacristy or any other area. If you have to drink to be a part of the wedding, you need to re-think your position.

No food may be brought into the church, the bride's dressing room, the sacristy or narthex. Likewise, gum chewing is not permitted in church.

All personal belongings must be removed from the church facilities IMMEDIATELY following the wedding. The parish cannot and will not be responsible for articles left unattended.

NOTHING may be moved in the church, sacristy, bride's dressing room, chapel or any other part of the church without the explicit permission of the Director of the Office of Worship or the priest or one of the deacons. This is to include furnishings, plants, flowers, and liturgical decor.

**THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE:** This sacrament should most certainly be celebrated by the Catholic members of the wedding party prior to the ceremony - especially the bride and/or groom. Confessions will NOT be heard on the night of the rehearsal nor before the ceremony. If you desire to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance please, by all means, make arrangements with the priest during the week before, or come the Thursday before at the regularly scheduled time of 5:30 to 6:15 PM or the previous Saturday from 4:15 to 5:00 pm.

**FEES:** There is no charge for the sacraments of the Catholic Church. However, there are expenses for practical details that you are asked to help defer. A fee of \$25 is requested to help cover the expenses involved in the preparation process including the FOCCUS survey. A fee of \$175 is requested for the maintenance of the church and must be paid before the rehearsal. A refundable deposit of \$100 is required at the time of booking the church. Please make checks payable to St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. It is also customary to give the presiding officiant of your wedding an honorarium (or stipend) for his services.

## CHECKLIST FOR WEDDING PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOL

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Required preparation:
- a) Conferences with priest/deacon handling the wedding.
  - b) *Unitas* Preparation process or Sponsor couple program and/or Engaged Encounter weekend.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Needed documents:
- a) New Catholic baptismal certificate (issued within 6 months of wedding date) and date and place of Confirmation.
  - b) Baptized non-Catholics need an equivalent record or proof of baptism.
  - c) Affidavit of free status returned to priest/deacon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Spiritual preparation:
- a) Prayer, reflection, alone and together. Articles given in wedding packet as well as booklet, Together For Life, are excellent resources.
  - b) For Catholics, the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) to be celebrated before the wedding. (At St. Frances Cabrini on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 4:15 p.m.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Liturgical Preparation:
- Contact the Director of the Office of Worship at least two months before the actual wedding to review the wedding ceremony.
- Musical preparation:
- a) Contact the Director of Music at least one month after the first meeting with the priest/deacon.
  - b) Finalized all music preparation with the Director of Music at least one month before the actual wedding.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. At least 2 weeks before the wedding:
- a) Pre-nuptial questionnaire to be filled out with priest/deacon: baptismal certificates must be presented at this time (if not before).
  - b) Session for planning wedding ceremony with priest/deacon: bring Together for Life book with insert completed.
  - c) Make sure that maintenance fee and preparation fees are paid.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Wedding Rehearsal:
- a) Bring the marriage license.
  - b) Fees for musicians and music ministers are due at the rehearsal or before the wedding begins.
  - c) Honorarium to the officiating priest/deacon should be presented after the rehearsal.

## **STATEMENT**

**By our signatures below, we, the bride and the groom, do hereby declare that we have read the marriage guidelines of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church and agree to follow these guidelines and procedures in regards to the celebration of marriage.**

**We have discussed with our parents these guidelines and procedures and realize and understand that exceptions to them will not be made.**

**We also understand that it is our responsibility to inform the photographers (both still and video) of the requirements of the parish and see to it that they are followed.**

**Furthermore, we understand that it is our responsibility to inform the florist of the requirements of the parish and see to it that they are followed.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of the Bride**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of the Groom**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of the priest/deacon**