
A SUMMARY OF THE INTRODUCTION



Part I: Importance and Dignity of the Sacrament of Matrimony (OCM 1-11)

The first section of the newly-expanded Introduction offers a profound theology of the Sacrament of Matrimony and provides a summary of the fruits of the sacrament. This section, in particular, contains wonderful homiletic material.

- 1 Matrimony derives its force and strength from creation... a Sacrament of the new covenant
- 2 Irrevocable consent of both spouses, complete fidelity, indissoluble bond
- 3 Conjugal love is ordered for the procreation and formation of children...the gift of Marriage
- 4 Intimate community of life and love...a sacred bond ... depends on the Author of Marriage
- 5 Christ raises marriage to the dignity of a sacrament...what God has joined, no one may put asunder
- 6 At Cana, Christ foreshadowed the covenant of his love and fidelity... Paschal Mystery
- 7 Valid marriage between the baptized is always a sacrament
- 8 Spouses participate in the love of Christ and his Church...help one another become holy
- 9 With the Holy Spirit... Christian spouses foster union in equal dignity, mutual giving...
- 10 They glorify the Creator and strive for perfection in Christ ... role of procreation with responsibility
- 11 God continues to call them to Marriage...one flesh, one spirit

Part II: Duties and Ministries (OCM 12-27)

The second section focuses on the ministers of the church and their roles and responsibilities in the preparation and celebration of Marriage. Drawing on Canon Law and sound pastoral practice, it offers details on providing for the couple's sacramental and spiritual preparation.

- 12 Pastoral and liturgical care belongs to the Bishop, to the pastor and his associates, entire community
- 13 Role of the Bishop...
- 14 Pastors of souls – preaching, personal preparation, liturgical celebration, helping married couples
- 15 Sufficient time for preparation of engaged couples
- 16 To foster and nourish faith of engaged couples
- 17 Provide catechesis on Marriage and the family, rites, prayers, and readings...
- 18 Sacrament of Confirmation and Penance
- 19 Before Marriage is celebrated,... nothing should stand in the way of its valid and licit celebration
- 20 Promote a living faith and fruitful love in the couple
- 21 When a couple openly and expressly rejects what the Church intends...
- 22 Pastoral care in special cases
- 23 Priest who prepares the couple should give homily, receive consent, celebrate the Mass
- 24 Deacon, after receiving faculty from pastor or local Ordinary, may preside...
- 25 Conditions for lay presiders... after vote of Conference, approval of Apostolic See
- 26 Lay people and entire Christian Community aid in preparation and celebration
- 27 Marriage to be celebrated in the parish of engaged person or elsewhere with permission

Part III: The Celebration of Matrimony (OCM 28-38)

Section three offers prescriptions for the preparation of the liturgy (28-32) and the rite to be used (33-38)

- 28 Communitarian character... encourages participation of the parish community
- 29 Celebration should be diligently prepared with couple... within Mass or without Mass... main elements to be chosen with the couple
- 30 About music during the Rite of Marriage -- chants to be sung during the Rite of Marriage, the Responsorial Psalm, other musical works
- 31 Festive character of marriage... decorating the Church, no favoritism to private persons...
- 32 When celebrated on a day having a penitential character... avoiding Good Friday, Holy Saturday
- 33 Celebration of Marriage within Mass, see Chapter I; without Mass, see Chapter II
- 34 Vestment color, choice of day, choice of texts, readings
- 35 Main elements are to stand out more clearly...
- 36 Choice of Rite-- Marriage between a Catholic and non-Catholic; between a Catholic and Catechumen or non-Christian
- 37 Pastoral care for those who rarely take part in the celebration of Marriage or the Eucharist
- 38 Preparations for Mass

Part IV: Adaptations to be prepared by the Conference of Bishops (OCM 39-44)

Finally, section four details which adaptations may be made to this universal document, allowing Conferences of Bishops to adapt the Roman Ritual to the customs and needs of particular regions.

- 39 Conference of Bishops publishes an edition for their territory with the approval of the Apostolic See
- 40 It is for the Conference to formulate the adaptations, to adapt and supplement this Introduction, to prepare versions of texts, to add suitable melodies, to arrange the materials in a form suitable for pastoral use.
- 41 Points to be kept in mind when preparing editions
- 42 A conference may draw up its own Marriage rite appropriate to the customs of the people with approval of the Apostolic See... must ask and receive consent, Nuptial Blessing must be given; must affix Introduction
- 43 Adaptations may be admitted into the Liturgy as long as it harmonizes with a true and authentic liturgical spirit
- 44 Where it is the custom to celebrate in homes, the Conference may determine that the Sacrament may be celebrated in homes



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Drawn from the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*

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