



DIOCESE OF HARRISBURG — Office of the Bishop

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Marriage is one of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ, one of the actions of the Holy Spirit at work in His Body, the Church. The celebration of marriage, like that of all the liturgies of the Church, is regulated by norms that help ensure the worthy and dignified celebration of the holy mysteries.

By this letter, I hereby promulgate a revised set of liturgical norms for the celebration of the sacrament of marriage in the Diocese of Harrisburg. These diocesan norms, in accord with the universal norms regulating the celebration of Marriage in the Latin Rite, are to be observed by all involved in the planning and in the actual celebration of the Rites of Marriage in the Diocese of Harrisburg.

These revised norms are the fruit of much collaboration. I wish to thank in particular Father Neil Sullivan, Director of the Office of Worship, and the members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission for their hard work in preparing these norms, as well as all who participated through consultations.

It is vitally important that we promote the dignity and sanctity of marriage in our society and that we prepare couples well for the lifelong commitment that marriage entails. At the same time, the actual celebration of the liturgy of marriage in which God seals the consent of the couple and bestows His grace upon the couple must also be given important attention. The revised liturgical norms will hopefully assist in nourishing the faith of all those who participate in the wedding liturgies celebrated in our diocese.

May the Lord bless and guide all those who prepare for marriage in our diocese and all those who assist them in their preparation!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Kevin C. Rhoades

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Harrisburg