

## **Collecting Documents for Prenuptial Packets**

- 1. Baptismal certificate for a Catholic. Contact your church of baptism for a NEWLY ISSUED copy of your baptismal certificate WITH ALL NOTATIONS: First Eucharist, Confirmation, and should you have had a valid marriage in the Catholic Church that will be noted on said document. If you have issues with getting the certificate, please call the parish office (210-497-6101) and we will assist in the process. You may have the certificate mailed to this parish: 20770 U. S. Hwy. 281 North; Suite 108, San Antonio, Texas 78258-7500.**
- 2. Proof of Baptism for other Christians. We will accept any documentation indicating your date and church of baptism. If you are non-baptized, we will address this with you.**
- 3. Dispensations: A dispensation for a Catholic to marry either a baptized or non-baptized will be completed and signed by the Catholic party seeking said dispensation.**
- 4. Once you have completed the required marriage preparation program a notice and evaluation will be forwarded to the parish office for review.**
- 5. Affidavits of Free Status. Ideally you will provide TWO WITNESSES for the bride and groom to affirm their freedom to marry. The witnesses can be your parent or siblings, or if necessary, longtime friends. If they are out of town, you can get this document to them, and they can fill them out at local Catholic Church and sign said documents in the presence of a priest or his delegate.**
- 6. Marriage License. If you are planning to marry, you should obtain your marriage license from the county at least two weeks prior to the wedding. Marriage licenses are valid for 30 days.**
- 7. If you are married civilly, and you cannot locate your marriage license, you can obtain a copy from the county where you originally requested the license.**
- 8. If married and divorced a copy of your marriage license and certified decree of divorce is required to help determine if a dispensation is needed.**
- 9. Are you planning a marriage outside of the Archdiocese of San Antonio?? All completed documents should be submitted at least TWO MONTHS in advance of your wedding date. This is**

**essential to allow the parish to mail your prenuptial packet with the original documents to the Tribunal for review before the Tribunal sends your prenuptial packet to the diocese where the marriage will take place. Note: Your parish minister should scan all documents in a pdf file. This is a safeguard to ensure delivery of all the necessary documents is possible, even if there are unexpected issues with the mail.**

- 10. For marriages taking place outside of the United States. To avoid any issues with mail delivery in foreign countries outside the United States. Please provide \$100.00 to your parish to send along with your prenuptial packets to cover the costs of mailing. Dioceses in foreign countries may require you to marry civilly before marrying in the Church. Please check with the parish where you will marry for their specific requirements.**

**\*\* These guidelines are provided by the Archdiocese of San Antonio**