



## FROM THE OFFICE OF WORSHIP

### **REVISED ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY NOTES**



## **MARRIAGE** *Unique for a Reason*

#### What is the Order of Celebrating Matrimony

Following the call for the revision of the rite of Matrimony (see *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, nos. 77-78), the first Latin edition of the *Ordo celebrandi Matrimonium* was issued in 1969. The first English edition (*Rite of Marriage*) went into effect in 1970, and this is the text we still use today.

In 1991, the second edition in Latin was promulgated, but other projects for the English-speaking Church prevented the translation of this edition into English. This second edition was reissued in 2008. Once the work of translating the *Roman Missal* was complete, the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) could turn their attention to other texts in need of translation.

The *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* (OCM) was canonically approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) on November 12, 2013, and was subsequently confirmed by the Apostolic See by decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments (CDWDS) on June 29, 2015.

The new Matrimony rite may be used as of September 8, 2016, and its use becomes mandatory beginning on December 30, 2016, the Feast of the Holy Family.

#### What Has Stayed the Same

As it has been with other texts, the first thing to note with this version is that the structure of the celebration has not changed. It still follows the pattern of questioning, consent, and blessing and exchange of rings. The text still contains the rites in Mass and out of Mass, as well as the rite for Marriage between a Catholic and an unbaptized person. This means that we will not have to re-learn the way the sacrament is celebrated.

#### What Has Changed

First, just a disclaimer—we cannot be completely certain of any changes until we have the new text in hand. The examples below are based on information given to the Office of Worship over the past year as we waited for final approval. It should be fairly accurate, but still needs to be verified in the final text, which should be available in the next few months.

Much like what we saw with the recent *Order for Confirmation*, the words and language of the celebration will be different. Following the same practices used in the translations of the *Roman Missal*, the language is closer in style and content to the Latin original. Also, texts that appear in both the *Missal* and the OCM (such as the nuptial blessings) will now be the same.

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Here are some other examples of changes:

- ✖ Title—from the *Rite of Marriage* to the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*
- ✖ Expanded Introduction (*Praenotanda*) , giving a deeper exposition of the Church's theology of Marriage
- ✖ Clarifications on the Entrance Rite (such as the use of the *Gloria* and the omission of the Penitential Act)
- ✖ Increased participation of the assembly through dialogs.

A few notes on other resources that are new in this text or omitted from the previous version:

- ✖ Two sample Prayers of the Faithful
- ✖ Order of Blessing an Engaged Couple
- ✖ Order of Blessing a Married Couple within Mass on the Anniversary of Marriage
- ✖ Unlike the previous edition, the OCM will not include other Mass texts like what is found in the current *Rite of Marriage*, chapter 4
- ✖ It will also not include the full texts of the Scripture readings or the commentaries currently found in Appendix II—only the citations.

Lastly, the new text should be available in a bilingual edition, with the Spanish and English on facing pages (similar to the new *Order for Confirmation*). There have not been any changes to the Spanish edition, which had been translated from the second edition in Latin several years ago.

## What Do We Do

If you celebrate Marriages in your parish, then you will need a copy of this text. Unlike the recent Confirmation text which was a re-translation of a current text, this is a much-needed first translation of a text that is now twenty-five years old. This edition gets the U.S. Church caught up with much of the rest of the world.

As mentioned earlier, the optional usage date is September 8, but mandatory usage date is December 30. While the permission has been granted, the U.S. text has not yet been printed. Other English versions (such as the one for England and Wales) have been printed and may be available, but these do not reflect any of the specific U.S. adaptations. Only use editions approved for the U.S. Several publishers have expressed interest in printing this new text, so stay tuned for more details on availability.

In terms of preparation for the text, the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) and the Bishops' Committee for Divine Worship (BCDW) have teamed up to offer formation on the revised rite. Workshops have been strategically scheduled in regions across the country and the FDLC has prepared materials for liturgical catechesis. These workshops are intended for priests, deacons, parish musicians, and diocesan leaders who actively prepare couples for marriage and for the celebration of Matrimony. Locations near Evansville include Louisville (May 13-14) and Chicago (June 17-18). For more information on these, please visit the FDLC website: <https://fdlc.org/marriage-rite-workshops>

The Office of Worship will also be planning some local opportunities for priests, deacons, music ministers and others involved in the preparation and celebration of Marriage. More information on these events will be available as we learn more about the publication date of the texts.

In addition, much as was done during the formation for the *Roman Missal* in 2011, the Office of Worship will work to be a clearinghouse for the many other supplemental resources that will be made available from various publishers. These items are already being advertised in some resource catalogs, but it would still seem wise to wait until we know more about when the ritual text will be printed and available before committing to one resource or another.

## Questions

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Office of Worship. Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!