

- b) **God's Plan For a Joy-Filled Marriage:** This is a series of talks based on the Theology of the Body that offers an understanding of God's Plan for marriage and human sexuality. It teaches about the beauty of marriage as originally designed, and the gifts husbands and wives are meant to be for one another. This part of the preparation process is typically done at the diocesan level. Again the priest/deacon will give you information on how to go about this.
- c) **FOCCUS:** The FOCCUS® Pre-Marriage Inventory is a 156-item questionnaire used by engaged couples with a trained FOCCUS Facilitator. Taking the inventory results in a personalized FOCCUS® Couple Report that helps target discussion on topics important to marital success. While FOCCUS is not a test and is not used to label couples or predict marital outcome, the report is used by the Facilitator to help couples celebrate their relationship strengths and talk to each other about topics warranting further attention. FOCCUS assesses nineteen categories to help couples sort the challenges and strengths they are bringing into marriage.

3. Documents Required: The following documents are required:

- a) **Baptismal Certificates:** For a Catholic, one that is a recent copy (i.e., one that is dated within six (6) months of your Wedding date). For a baptized non-Catholic the copy needed may not be new, but one that we can keep for our records.
- b) **Certificates from the Instructional Sessions:** After completing the Pre-Cana Program and God's Plan for a Joy-Filled Marriage you will receive certificates that are then brought to the priest/deacon preparing you for marriage.
- c) **Civil License:** A Civil License is required by the State to get married. It is obtained from the township of the bride's legal residence unless she is from another state. Then it is obtained from the township of the groom's legal residence. In the rare event that neither the bride nor the groom have legal residences in the State of New Jersey then the License is obtained in the township where the wedding will take place; that is, through the Butler Municipality because our church is in Butler, NJ. One witness, 18 years or older, is needed when applying for the license to testify that you are the real persons getting married and not proxies. It is wise to call the local municipality and speak to the Registrar who handles these matters.

NOTE WELL: Civil Licenses must be applied for at least 72 business hours prior to the actual Wedding date!!! We recommend that you make your application for your license at least two weeks before your Wedding date.

- d) **If this is a second marriage, a decree of Annulment must be submitted before a date may be finalized. If a previous marriage ended as a result of death, a Death Certificate must be produced**