

IX. MARRIAGE REGISTER-ENTRIES

See canons 1121-1123 of the *Code of Canon Law*.

A. Required Data

The following data are to be entered into the marriage register:

- Names of the spouses;
- Name of the person (e.g., the bishop, priest, or deacon) who assisted
- Names of the witnesses
- The date and place of the celebration of the marriage

B. Source of Data

The priest or deacon who assists at a marriage is responsible for communicating the necessary information to the parish where the marriage was celebrated. The premarital file ordinarily contains all the necessary information. However, the assisting minister should be alert to any last minute changes or corrections (for example, the names of the witnesses) to the information contained in the premarital file.

C. Marriage outside a Parish Church

When a marriage is celebrated in a location other than a parish church (e.g., a chapel or other sacred place of regular worship and with permission of the Bishop), the proper parish for the marriage record is the one in which that location stands. The only exception is when a marriage is celebrated with a dispensation from canonical form (e.g., when a Catholic receives a dispensation to marry a Protestant in the Protestant church). In that situation, the proper parish for the marriage record is the parish of the Catholic party or the parish where the couple prepared for marriage.

D. Validation

When a marriage is validated (e.g., when Catholics, who were “married” outside of the Church without a dispensation, now marry in the Catholic Church), the data concerning the validation are to be placed in the usual columns. The date, place and official of the original ceremony are to be noted in the “Notations” column.

E. Sanation

When a marriage is sanated by the Bishop or his delegate (e.g., when a marriage is validated without the renewal of consent), the data concerning the original ceremony are to be placed in the usual columns. The date, diocese and protocol number of the sanation are to be noted in the “Notations” column.

F. Previous Civil Marriage

The previous civil marriage of persons who are baptized or received into full communion with the Catholic Church is not to be recorded in the Marriage Register, unless the previous marriage was invalid and is now being validated or sanated. A notation concerning the marriage is to be placed in the person's baptismal record, in the "Notations" column. See the section above on RCIA and Reception into Full Communion regarding the Baptism Register.

G. Notation of Dispensations and Declarations of Nullity

When a dispensation is granted prior to marriage, or a declaration of nullity ("annulment") is granted after marriage, the date, diocese and protocol number, along with the type of dispensation (e.g., "Dispensation from Disparity of Cult") or "Declaration of Nullity", are to be noted in the "Notations" column. Any special recording directions that are contained in the dispensation or declaration of nullity document are to be followed.

H. Notification of the Church of Baptism

When the marriage of a Catholic is celebrated, validated or sanated, the pastor of the parish where the record of marriage is retained must notify the parish of baptism as soon as possible. This notification is to include the names of the spouses and the date and place of the wedding, validation or sanation; the names of the person who assisted and witnesses are not required.