

# Introduction



The sacrament of matrimony is both a social sacrament and a vocation. The Church needs vital, healthy marriages as examples of God's love among us, and as role models for those in relationships who need guidance and help. This handbook is designed to help couples who are preparing for remarriage in the Catholic Church and who are about to receive the sacrament of matrimony.

As we have organized it, interested couples may read the book or it can be used as part of a sacramental-marriage preparation process or program. The end of section exercises may be completed as part of a diocesan or parish level program or can be done by the couple together. We have these Stop and Talk segments throughout the book. Please take as much time as you need to discuss the questions we have posed. And each question can be returned to if you wish to dig deeper at a later time.

The book has two sections. The first focuses on the couple and issues that newlyweds-to-be have to address. The second is centered on issues and matters related to bringing children into your new marriage. We look at topics affecting both minor/dependent children and adult children.

We have had the privilege of helping to prepare remarrying couples within the Diocese of St. Petersburg and through the Office of Marriage and Family Ministry. We hope this book helps you to live a fulfilling, holy, and satisfying life as a couple and new family.