

A very brief overview of the Marriage Preparation Process

1. First, there is paperwork: You will meet with the pastor, or some other staff person to complete an initial questionnaire. They vary slightly from diocese to diocese, but it will look similar to this and ask similar questions.
2. Second, there is a program such as Evenings for the Engaged, "Pre-Cana" meetings, Engaged Encounter, or a Pre-Marriage Weekend depending on which is available in one's respective diocese or area.
3. Third, there is a pre-marital inventory (like a standardized testing instrument) which couples complete. The most common ones are PMI (pre-marital inventory) FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding, and Study), and PREPARE. Then often you meet with the priest, staff person, or sponsor couple to review the results. This may take a few meetings.