

THE ORDER OF BLESSING AN ENGAGED COUPLE

218. The honorable betrothal of Christians is a special occasion for two families to observe with some ceremony and with common prayer the joyful beginning of the couples' engagement.
- 218 and 220. The Order of Blessing must be adapted to suit particular circumstances.
219. When the engagement is celebrated within the confines of the two families, one of the parents may appropriately preside at the rite of blessing. If a Priest or Deacon is present, then the office of presiding more appropriately belongs to him, provided that it is clear to those present that the rite is not a celebration of Marriage itself.
221. If the engagement has already taken place, this order of celebration may be used when couples are brought together for catechetical preparation for Marriage. A betrothal or a special blessing of an engaged couple is never to be combined with the celebration of Mass.

Introductory Rites:

Sign of the Cross

Greeting #222

Introduction to Blessing ("in these or similar words" #224)

Reading of the Word of God: #225 through #228

Scripture Selections: John 15:9-2

I Corinthians 13:4-13

Hosea 2:21-26

Philippians 2:15

Psalm 145:8-9, 10, 15, 17-18

Brief reflection may follow

Prayers:

Prayers of Intercession with appropriate response #230

Prayer of Blessing #233; prayer specifically for priest/deacon #234

Conclusion of Rite:

Concluding Blessing #235

Song (optional) #236