

# Diocese of St. Augustine

(Two witnesses are to be used for each party)

Testimony of witness to prove the freedom to marry of

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of bride or groom


Name of priest/deacon  
preparing the marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Church of marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

This form should be returned to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and address of church

Name of and complete address of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Are you related to the bride/groom named above? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, how? \_\_\_\_\_ If you are not related, how long have you known him/her? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Has the above named bride/groom ever gone through a marriage ceremony, even civilly? \_\_\_\_\_ How many times? \_\_\_\_\_ Is the spouse deceased? \_\_\_\_\_ Have these marriages been declared null by the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. As far as you know, does the bride/groom named above intend to enter into a permanent marriage, lasting until death? \_\_\_\_\_
  4. As far as you know, do both the father and mother (guardians) of this person approve of this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, please state their objections on the back of this form.
  5. As far as you know, are there any conditions of any kind being attached to this marriage by either of the parties to the marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, state them on the back of this form.
  6. As far as you know, is there anything on the part of the groom or bride which would render this marriage unlawful or invalid? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, explain on the back of this form.
  7. Is any person or circumstance forcing the groom or bride to marry against his or her will? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, explain on the back of this form.
  8. Do you wish to make any further statement regarding this proposed marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, please do so on the back of the form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of priest/deacon/notary

## YOUR AUTOBIOGRAPHIES



True love is based upon knowledge of yourself and your intended spouse, if it is not; it remains mere infatuation and fantasy. You should understand their concrete expression, that is to say, you should understand your personality and the personality of your intended spouse. When you enter into marriage you and your intended spouse are bringing everything of who you are into the relationship. Nothing is left behind no matter how much you wish that it could be. It is helpful to take some time as you begin a new journey in life to assess that you and your intended spouse are, how you became the people you are, and what you are both bringing into this new partnership.

There is something very definite and final about putting things in writing. It forces us to deliberate, to choose words carefully, to say what we really mean. Writing one's autobiography can be difficult, perhaps even painful at times, and takes a great deal of effort. It will be its own reward, however, because it will force you to discover your real self. It will help you to begin the discovery of your loved one. It will give you a glimpse through the doors to your future.

We suggest the following outline for your autobiography. Write the autobiography yourself and once complete share it with your intended spouse. When you have completed your life history, may we ask that you mark it "Confidential" and bring it to your parish priest/deacon who is preparing you for your marriage.

- A. **YOUR PARENTS:** Describe the personalities of your parents; how they got along with each other as you grew up; how they treated you; showed affection; emotions; encouragement; allowed you to mature; exercised discipline. Describe your feelings toward each parent in childhood and now; your reaction to your schooling, education and upbringing.
- B. **YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:** Older, younger? Describe how you influenced one another and interacted with your parents, both growing up and now.
- C. **YOUR TEACHERS, EMPLOYERS, AND OTHER AUTHORITY FIGURES:** Describe how they influenced you, helped or possibly even hindered in your formation and your reaction to their advice or criticism.
- D. **YOUR PEERS, FRIENDS, AND CO-WORKERS:** Describe your long lasting relationships; how you got along with others; your involvement in organizations or causes; your prejudices; your sensitivities; your ability to communicate; to express your feelings; your ability to trust.
- E. **YOURSELF:** Describe your self-image (strengths, weaknesses); self-assertiveness; self-control; major interests; goals in life; health history; sense of responsibility; dependability; dependency; punctuality; neatness; use of money; use of your free time; manner of handling anger; rejection; failure; depression; fears; need for affection; emotional breakdowns; problems with alcohol; drug use; gambling; sex; legal problems. Describe your schooling, religious education, and work record.
- F. **YOUR RELIGION:** Briefly describe your beliefs, thoughts, feelings about God, Jesus Christ, the Catholic Church, the Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Matrimony, prayer, your involvement with your Church.
- G. **YOUR FIANCE:** Please try to describe your fiance in terms of the six categories listed above in A to F.
- H. **YOUR COURTSHIP:** Describe how you met; what attracted you to the other; when and how the subject of marriage came up; any pressures to marry; what you look for in marriage; the reaction of your parents and friends to your marriage. Any doubts; any separations or breakups; any signs of breakdown in communication? What you feel you have in common. How you compliment one another.
- I. **YOUR FUTURE LIFE TOGETHER:** Describe your awareness of and acceptance of each other's shortcomings relative to your marital obligations. How do you intend to resolve your differences? Describe each other's intentions concerning children. Do you plan to work, have a large family, etc? Describe your intentions concerning your family's religious and secular education. Do either of you plan to pursue a career? Describe your awareness of any problems which might arise concerning your work and your relationship to your spouse and intended family. Any in-law problems? Briefly describe what you expect from marriage.