



Pre-Marital Attestation

Marriage is a great gift! It is the one blessing not forfeited by original sin. This document is borne out of my experiences of working in the tribunal, looking at marriages that have fallen apart. I do not want your marriage to fail. You do not want your marriage to fail. Please pray over each of these statements. If there is something you disagree with in this document bring it up in marriage preparation. God wants to use this occasion of your wedding as a moment of grace that will continue to bring forth blessings in your life. – Fr Dan

Statements of About Marriage
The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized.
Marriage is for the good of the spouses. Your marriage is truly a gift from God to you. You are going to share the whole of your lives together and live for the sake of each other. This means that you will have to put your spouse above yourself. This doesn't mean you're only called to suffer, but you are called to allow the other to be first.
Marriage is a free choice. Marriage comes into existence through the free consent of each person. If there is something that is forcing you or coercing you into marriage you need to stop now. No one can force you to marry. You have to want to be married and have to want to make this free choice yourself. God will bless and consecrate this union, but you make the choice to enter this marriage freely.
Marriage is for the procreation and education of offspring. You are called to share an intimate sexual life with your spouse. Sexual intimacy is a great gift in marriage. A natural fruit of sexual intimacy is the gift of children. Children are a great gift. You are not required to have any specific number of children, but you are called to be a responsible parent.
Marriage means fidelity and unity. Fidelity and unity are inherent aspects of marriage itself and are a source of great blessing.
Divorce is not an option. The marital vows you make last until the day you or your spouse die. Our society allows for divorce because of the weakness of human nature; but this is not the understanding of Jesus Christ, nor his church. Unhappiness in marriage is not a valid reason for divorce. Even if you get a divorce you are still married.
When you get married you are stating that you are totally giving up the ability to have a sexually intimate relationship with anyone other than your spouse. Adultery is a serious sin that Jesus can forgive, but many people never will. If there is a serious risk of you committing adultery you do not need to get

<p>married. You need to make the commitment to never commit adultery. It will ruin your life, your spouse's life, and the lives of your children.</p>
<p>Love is not merely an emotion. Emotions are involved with love, but love is ultimately a virtue that is exercised by our choices. You do not fall out of love; you give up choosing to love. You are called to make choices in accordance with love.</p>
<p>Certain things will never be helpful to your marriage: pornography, masturbation, or contraception. Each of these involves a serious abuse of the gift of human sexuality.</p>
<p>Be careful of alcohol, illegal drugs, and prescription drugs. These are notorious for ruining relationships and families. A high percentage of marriage annulments involve alcohol abuse. If you need help with alcohol, drugs, or a mental/emotional condition (depression, anxiety, panic attacks, bi-polar disorder, personality disorder) get the help you need from a professional.</p>
<p>Marriage is hard. Marriage requires work. You will not have all the answers on day one of your marriage. You won't necessarily have them after fifty years either. Marriage means you are going to work at this relationship. People change and you have to learn to work with one another to adjust to so many different circumstances.</p>
<p>Your future spouse will never complete you. If you think this you are automatically setting them up for failure. No human person can complete another person. It is only Christ who can complete another person.</p>
<p>God has already blessed you in your baptism and made you his own child in Jesus Christ. You should seek a real relationship with Jesus Christ, nourished by prayer and the sacramental life of the Church. St. Leo the Great said, "Christian, recognize your dignity and, now that you share in God's own nature, do not return to your former base condition by sinning. Remember who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Never forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of the Kingdom of God."</p>
<p>Domestic violence, rape within or without marriage, physical abuse, mental abuse, or verbal abuse are never acceptable.</p>
<p>If you are not ready to get married then don't get married. Many people ignore red flags because invitations have already been sent out and they don't want to embarrass themselves or their families. Divorce is more embarrassing.</p>
<p>If you need help talk to your priest, your doctor, a psychologist, a psychiatrist, or a therapist. Don't ever give up hope. You have been created so good and God has amazing plans for your life. The Book of Jeremiah states, "For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11)."</p>

Signed _____

Dated _____

Witness Signature _____