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NOTICE

Weddings on Holy Days of Obligation other than Sundays

The Chancery has received requests to clarify the diocesan norms regarding whether or not it is permissible to celebrate a wedding on a holy day of obligation.

It is clear that no weddings are permitted in the Diocese of Erie on Sundays, either within or outside of Mass.

While in general priests and deacons should discourage the celebration of weddings on other holy days of obligations, it is nonetheless permissible to celebrate weddings on holy days of obligation which do not fall on Sunday. The decision of whether or not to do so lies with the proper pastor (or chaplain in the case of lawfully approved chapels) of the place where the wedding will be celebrated.

For the celebration of a Nuptial Mass on a holy day of obligation, as with any solemnity, the liturgical norms given in the Rite of Marriage (1970 edition), paragraph no. 11, are to be followed, i.e.,

- the gloria, orations, readings, creed, and preface are all taken from the solemnity
- the exchange of consent and blessing and exchange of rings follows the homily in the usual way, and is then followed by the recitation of the creed
- the creed is followed by the general intercessions
- following the Our Father, the nuptial blessing is done in the usual way
- the final blessing may be taken from the Rite of Marriage, if desired

If there are any questions, please contact the Chancery at 814-824-1135 or 800-374-3723 or chancery@eriercd.org. In the meantime, please be assured of my continued prayers.

By order of the Most Reverend Bishop
September 2, 2008

Sincerely,

Rev. Edward M. Lohse, J.C.L.
Chancellor

L.S.