

## When an Engaged Couple Gives You a Call

Parish secretaries,

Thank you for the positive impact you have on the people who call your parish! You are the joyful face of welcome in your parish, and your ministry of availability is key to helping parishioners feel connected and loved! We understand that you are often the first contact with your parish the engaged couple has, so we created this handy guide in the hope that you would find inspiration for your conversations. Feel free to alter the steps below to fit your needs!

### 1. **Congratulate the couple with a smile!**

“Congratulations on your engagement; how exciting! I’m so glad you called.”

After congratulating, you can silently pray “Come Holy Spirit” to ask for His help in guiding the conversation. Whether you are on the phone or in person, your smile makes a big difference!

### 2. **Use questions to get to know the couple:**

- “How did he/you propose?”
- “How did you meet each-other?”
- “What are your hopes for your wedding?”
- “Do you have a home parish yet? Our community would love to welcome you if you are new to town or looking for a church!”
- “Do you have any questions I could answer for you?”
- Be sure to affirm the beauty of the couple’s story and love for each other.

### 3. **Discuss the marriage preparation process if available & collect any needed information:**

“Yes! It’s always a blessing to have the gift of a marriage in our parish. I do want to share some details with you, because we value your marriage so much that we have structures in place not just to plan for your wedding but also to help you be ready for marriage. In the Church marriage is a Sacrament, which means God is present in your vows and seals them with His grace, to help you love like Jesus loves the Church. We hope we can help you prepare spiritually for this big step as well.

“With that in mind, before we discuss any other details, including a wedding date, we should schedule a time for you to sit down with Father...”

### 4. **Provide guidance if marriage preparation is not available at your parish:**

“Thank you so much for reaching out to our parish; I wish we could make it work so you could have it here. Unfortunately, at this point we do not have the ability to schedule a wedding (explain reason why), but I would be happy to connect you with our diocesan Marriage and Family Life Office! They could help you identify a church near you that might be an option for you. Would you like their phone number (614-241-2560)?”

### 5. **Wish them well and end the conversation:**

“Thank you so much for calling; I hope this time of engagement is very special and blessed for you. We will be praying for you!”

Please know we appreciate all that you do to connect couples with the parish! Feel free to give us a call if we can help you feel more prepared for conversations with engaged couples. You can also use us as a resource for engaged couples that cannot be prepared for marriage at your parish. We are here to support you! God bless you, The Marriage and Family Life Office

**MARRIAGE PREP RESOURCES FOR PARISHES:  
COLUMBUSCATHOLIC.ORG/MARRIAGE-PREP-PARISHES**