

The Joy of Getting Married



certificate as well as their confirmation certificate from their parish church of origin. It would be interesting trying to get this copy to be certified as you would have to go back and forth quite a bit to do so.

The setting of the date is at times even dependent on a "good date" if the family or one of the partners of the couple is Chinese. This would mean going to the feng

shui master or wedding date master to get the dates based on each others' birth date and time. It is cultural. I do not see any harm in this. It gets the whole family understanding going.

Next of course is the much dreaded twosome. The wedding dinner and the photography. The wedding dinner would either be a huge one off type or in each of the families' own hosting especially if it is inter-state. Logistics and timing would be a crucial factor.

The wedding photography would also be another discovery of places like SS2. The Bridal shops there are all eager to show samples of packages. The rows of bridal boutiques would take you at least two weekends. Yes, you will never be able to do it over two days as you would have to look at the gowns, clothing, sample photography packages and costing. It is not as easy as you would plan it. So do allow both of you time.

The stress level would definitely go up. While this is going on, both intending

to get married in Church would have to go through the Catholic Marriage Preparation Course. Upon completion, a certificate is given. This course would normally be over six weeks and done once a week over about two hours each.

Upon selection of the Church to marry, the necessary approvals must be obtained from your local Parish Church. A date for the Pre-Nuptial Enquiry with the Priest would be set.

When we got married in St Joseph's Cathedral in Kuching, we had to also obtain a License to Marry (Borang KC02) from the National Registration (Marriage Section) as well as a statutory declaration at least five to six weeks before marriage. This would be essential for the next step of Pre Nuptial Enquiry with the Priest. Hence, easily it takes about a year of preparation. A marriage Bann would then be put up for weeks at the Church and National Registration (Marriage Section) notice board.

I understand that in Malaya and from St Francis Xavier in Petaling Jaya, after the Pre Nuptial Enquiry, both would be required to register their marriage at the Registrar of Civil Marriages or the Assistant Registrar of Marriages attached to the Church.

The main difference that in Sarawak, the signing and registration is done in Church whilst in Malaya, you would do this after the Pre Nuptial Enquiry before the wedding day in Church.

The stress would only end after the wedding dinner or dinners if there are at different locations. The guests are best left to both parents. It is their time as well. It is suggested that the couple just enjoy themselves and not get into the planning of whom to invite and place where of their parents. They should only ask for the number of tables to fit their own guests and let their parents handle the rest.

Money would be a subject to be brought up but it should not be in any way an issue if handled properly. Ensure you have a modest celebration as the real celebration as what the Priest told us, was the union of two into one in Holy Matrimony.

The wedding booklet will be testimony to a beautiful event of the day. Creating a perfect wedding is the acceptance of an imperfect wedding. Take all that come with joy as there is no need to get stressed.

Getting Married is stressful, but then it is the most memorable. The day you take that big step in commitment is the day you solemnly promise each other in the house of God to be true to one another.

The last wedding I went at St Francis Xavier was also the first time in many years since I came to St Francis Xavier. My Parish Church is now St Thomas More in USJ, Subang Jaya. St Francis Xavier has been kept well and renovated. It is kept at its best in being simple, humble and focused. Coming back was a beautiful feeling. It reminded me of my wedding vows.

As couples become husband and wife, the new journey begins. It is no longer about you nor me. It is about us. It is time for us to make that stand against the injustices in the world and ensure our children has a better future and a place to carry the good work of managing what is loaned to them for their onward generation and more. It is God's will that good triumphs over evil and we must do our part.

GOD BLESS AND HAVE A BLESSED MONTH.



SUBANG GHIT-CHAT WITH ANTHONY DYLAN

DO you remember the time when both of you decided to take the next big step? It is one of the most memorable times of your lives. It is the end of numerous dates and the beginning of sharing and being one whole new unit as a married couple.

If I may, I would like to share with you the numerous things one would have to do before the actual registration day. After the question has been popped, it would normally be a huge burst of excitement due to pent up anxiety.

Families would then be told and the viral-like excitement would then spread like wildfire. For Christians in Sabah and Sarawak, inter-marriages are quite common amongst different ethnicities. In Malaya, it is becoming common.

This month saw many marriages. I have attended some and church wedding remain to me, the most memorable. I find it funny to see couples going through the paces with innocent adventure. They would first have to get all their documents ready before anything else.

They would have to get their baptism



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