



NEWLYWED COUPLES WISHING TO ATTEND PAPAL AUDIENCE

Sposi Novelli

Newlywed couples (*sposi novelli*) married in the Catholic Church who would like to attend a Wednesday audience of the Holy Father may often sit in a special section at the Audience. To qualify, couples should be married within two (2) months of the audience they wish to attend (although some flexibility up to one (1) year may be possible) and carry with them a copy of the Sacramental Marriage Certificate signed by the priest or deacon who celebrated the wedding. To be permitted to sit in the *sposi novelli* section, **the couple needs to wear their wedding attire (or a similar long white dress with covered shoulders for the bride, and a suit with jacket and tie for the groom)**. The Holy Father will bless you for a happy wedded life when he gives his general blessing at the conclusion of the Papal audience. Occasionally, some *sposi novelli* also have the opportunity to greet the Holy Father personally after the Audience.

Requesting Tickets

Tickets for the Papal Audiences must be requested through the **Prefecture of the Papal Household**. Because this office is located in the Vatican, this can sometimes be a bit challenging, and the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops* have therefore set up our office to assist American pilgrims with requesting tickets at the *Pontifical North American College* (NAC) in Rome.

The NAC Office will need to submit the ticket requests to the Prefecture of the Papal Household two (2) weeks before the Audience, and they therefore ask pilgrims to send their ticket requests ideally one (1) month before the date of the Audience you wish to attend. Unfortunately, if you contact the office less than two (2) weeks before the date of the Audience, they cannot submit a request for you, but can add you to a reserve list in case some other pilgrims do not claim the tickets they had requested.

To request sposi novelli-tickets please send us the following information:

1. Title and full name of the Groom
2. Title and full name (as married) of the Bride
3. Your email address
4. Your full mailing address in the U.S.
5. Date of marriage
6. Name and location of the church in which you were/will be married
7. Name of the priest/deacon presiding at the wedding
8. Date of the Wednesday General Audience you wish to attend

The NAC Office kindly asks you to send an email to visitorsoffice@pnac.org with these details. They receive many emails each day, and therefore kindly ask you to allow them up to two (2) weeks to respond to your inquiry. If you have not received a reply within this time, they kindly invite you to first check whether their response might have ended up in your junk mail, and if this is not the case, to contact them again using another email address, since their email address is occasionally rejected by some email servers.

Once you have received a confirmation by email, the tickets for the General Audiences will be distributed at the NAC Office on Via dell Umilta, 30 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. the Tuesday afternoon before the Audience. Unfortunately, we they unable to email/fax/scan/mail tickets.