

Why throw the bouquet and garter?

Ever wonder where the odd "boutique and garter" throwing tradition at wedding receptions comes from? The tradition of throwing the bride's garter to unmarried males started long ago when, following the wedding feast, guests would get to "bed" the bride and groom.

Everyone would follow the wedding couple into the bedroom, undress them and put them into the bed. Garters which were a necessity back then were removed and thrown to the groom's men or friends, thus starting a tradition that lives on today. The tradition of throwing the bouquet started at first because people thought brides in their wedding regalia had mystical powers and would trip and pluck at the ornaments and ribbons, or sometimes even the bride.

Ceremony

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that's different is that the couple chooses to be married somewhere other than in one specific church.

Pastor Santos said couples are looking for alternative ways to say "I do."

"I'm not unique in the sense that my experiences are mine alone. All pastors are being exposed to the new interest in alternative ceremonies. I'm ready to hear requests from couples who have a need or a desire to do something special and removed from the traditional church ceremony," Pastor Santos said.

Another new twist to getting married includes the participation of other family members in the actual ceremony.

"In second marriages, the couple wishes to include sons and daughters from other marriages." She said, "Marriage has in some cases, become a family-wide affair. The couple would like everyone who is close to them to be a part of their special day."

The pastor says there also is a desire to omit some traditional phrases from the context of the marriage vows. Phrases

referring to "holding your peace" and similar thoughts are often left out. Because the modern ceremony sometimes varies from the traditional, the

Questions

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Common questions for couples regarding person close to you:

1. Is your attitude toward mother-in-law and father-in-law a positive one? These are additional love persons for you to enjoy.
2. How do you build a positive relationship with other in-laws, new persons to trust and enjoy?
3. What about his friends, her friends, new friends?
4. Are you aware of family and friends who feel left out and neglected by your recent actions?

Common questions related to the process of getting married:

1. How will your housing will be handled?
2. The premarital examination must be done to meet state law, but will you get full or complete examination including the following services:
 - a. General physical exam for both.
 - b. Blood test for the state law.
 - c. Psychological and physiological aspects of sex.
 - d. Family planning procedures.
 - e. Genetic planning as warranted.
 - f. Answers to questions that either of you has about the financial aspects of marriage? What about: car (used or new, large or small), insurance (term, hospital, surgical, endowment), food, recreation, housing (old or new, rent or buy), clothes, medical and dental care, installment buying and savings and growth investments?

beauty of the procedure isn't necessarily lost. Marriages, although different in context, can be just as romantic and meaningful.

Photos, videotape or both?

Don't skimp when choosing a photographer

BY CHARLOTTE M. DENMON
Staff correspondent

The wedding day is a time of love, joy and memories, and while these memories will live forever in the minds of the bride and groom, it's always nice to have some photos to share the day with family and friends.

While getting a family friend to take your wedding photos may save you some money, the results could prove disastrous, and a wedding is hardly something you can stage a second time, just to try for better photos.

Another popular way of recording wedding festivities today is videotaping the event, but, once again, if the person handling the equipment is not a professional, the result may be a 20 minute shot of the church ceiling, complete with fans. In the long run, everyone will be happier if a reputable, professional photographer is hired to capture your wedding and reception on film and/or videotape. The extra expense is more than made up for when you see the results.

If a bride elects to have both a professional photographer and professional videotaper at the ceremony, it is best that they discuss necessary lighting and set ups needed so both can perform well and provide good photos and tapes for the bride and groom.

Videotape does not replace album photographs but are a welcome addition. It has the benefit of recording sound as well as images and it is an instantaneous medium, meaning the bride and groom can enjoy viewing their wedding immediately after the ceremony, or, as a number of couples are doing today, set up a viewing screen at the reception so those who could not attend the church ceremony can see what they missed.

The photography in the church should

be cleared by the bride or her family in advance since some churches do not allow photography of any kind during the ceremony. In today's churches, there are some who tape the wedding service and make it available to the newlyweds.

Before engaging a photographer of any kind, discuss your ideas with several reputable photographers. They have a variety of services to offer at different costs.

The bride should ask to see samples of their work and discuss what price package deals they have and what these packages include. In contracting the photographer, agree that the bride and groom may provide a list of "must have" photos or a script for the person doing the taping. If it can be afforded, arrange with the videotaper to film a wedding tape that has the appearance of a real movie film complete with title, special effects, etc.



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