

April 2008

Dear Brides:

I have been very accommodating over the years in the attire that I permit members of a wedding party to wear. Unfortunately, at recent weddings here at St Rita, bridal parties have abused the freedom that I have permitted and have worn some completely inappropriate dresses. The simple fact is that one does not have to dress in a very suggestive and immodest manner to be beautiful.

Therefore, from now on, no one will be allowed in the wedding party who has their shoulders uncovered or who is wearing an unacceptably short dress (anything shorter than just above the knee). The one exception will be for the bride. We will provide neutral shawls for anyone who needs them.

For the vast majority of you who understand the principles of decorum I am sorry that I even have to write this letter. We are committed here at St Rita to making your wedding day absolutely beautiful. God has done an amazing thing bringing the two of you together. The celebration of that union in our church is important to us and gives glory to God. Our attire should reflect that attitude.

If this change in policy is unacceptable, we will happily refund your deposit. May God continue to bless you and your fiancé as you conclude your preparations for marriage.

Sincerely yours,

Reverend Thomas S. Collins
Pastor