



10 BASIC QUESTIONS ON ANNULMENTS

- 1. Where does one begin the annulment process?** The Annulment process begins at the Parish Level. Please call your parish and make an appointment with the Pastor/Pastoral Minister. The Pastoral Minister will interview you and help you to complete the Petition for Nullity and submit the Petition to the Tribunal.
- 2. How long would it take?** A general rule of thumb is a year to a year and a half. Some cases may take less time while others may take longer. However, we make every effort to keep cases moving. The Tribunal is unable to predict when a case can be completed.
- 3. What is needed?** In addition to the Petition for Nullity Forms, four items are required: 1) a newly-issued Baptismal Certificate (with Notations) 2) a Marriage License/Marriage Certificate from the Church of marriage 3) the Divorce Decree (Notice of Entry of Judgment) 4) three witnesses who knew you before, during and after the marriage that can provide information on the struggles of the marriage.
- 4. Is the former spouse contacted?** Yes, the former spouse is contacted. This is required by Canon Law. The former spouse has a right to participate and provide witnesses. A current address for them is required. If unlocated, the parent's address or a sibling's address is may be used. If this is not possible, an internet search that declares every effort is made in locating the ex-spouse is accepted.
- 5. What if the ex-spouse refuses to participate?** The annulment can move forward if the ex-spouse refuses to participate. However, this is where a good address for the ex-spouse is necessary. They are contacted and the ex-spouse can refuse to participate.
- 6. What are some grounds for invalidity?** There are numerous grounds for invalidity. Some are: physical abuse, fraud, force, fear, grave irresponsibility, continuous infidelity, mental abuse, sexual abuse, mental illness, alcoholism, drug abuse, criminal behavior, intention to exclude children, simulation of marriage, error of person, error of quality, lack of discretion and ignorance of marriage.
- 7. What is the cost for an annulment?** The fee for the annulment process is \$600.00 which includes a \$100.00 filing fee when the Petition for Nullity is submitted. If a psychological review is required there is an additional fee. A payment plan is established when the case is opened to facilitate payment.
- 8 Why does a Non-Catholic need to get an annulment to marry a Catholic?** If a Non-Catholic person is validly married by civil law, the Catholic Church considers the marriage valid and requires an annulment.
- 9. Does the annulment affect the legitimacy of children?** No, it does not affect the legitimacy of children. The parents' annulment does not affect them in any way. They have the same dignity as anyone who is created in God's image.
- 10. How early can a wedding be planned? No wedding date can be set as the annulment begins.** Wedding plans can only **begin** after the Petitioner has received the Decree of Nullity indicating the annulment has been granted.