



## MARITAL STATUS & IMPEDIMENTS FOR THOSE BECOMING CATHOLIC

As you begin the RCIA process on entering the church or completing your sacraments, one of the biggest factors is your marital status. It is not meant to cause worry or burden, but to ensure the road to full initiation is clear of any impediments. If impediments are present, we are here to assist the individual/couple in whatever process is required, and to pray with them throughout. We will go over your current marital status in the following ways. *If you are :*

### 1. CURRENTLY MARRIED (FIRST MARRIAGE) :

- **Either you or your spouse were Baptized Catholic:** Were you married in the Catholic Church by a Priest or Deacon? And Where? – If you were NOT and you were married civilly, then you will need a **Convalidation**. You will begin the Convalidation Preparation and Convalidate your marriage **BEFORE** you become Catholic.
- **Neither you nor your spouse were Baptized Catholic:** Since both you and your spouse are not Catholic and this is your first marriage, your marriage is recognized by the Catholic Church as valid and sacramental. You will not have to go through the marriage preparation process.

### 2. CURRENTLY MARRIED (PREVIOUSLY DIVORCED) :

- **Either you or your spouse were Baptized Catholic:** You will begin the Annulment Process and file a petition for nullity. Depending on the petition, it could take up to a year or more to be approved. After you have filed for the Annulment you will begin the Convalidation Preparation. Once the Annulment has been granted you will Convalidate your marriage **BEFORE** you become Catholic.
- **Neither you nor your spouse were Baptized Catholic:** You will begin the Annulment Process and file a petition for nullity. Depending on the petition, it could take up to a year or more to be approved. Once the Annulment has been granted your current marriage is then recognized by the Catholic Church as valid and sacramental. You will not have to go through the marriage preparation process.

*If a formal petition is required on any prior unsuccessful marriage (either partner), the person will need to complete the required petition and receive a formal decree of nullity on the unsuccessful marriage(s) PRIOR to any reception of the sacraments of the Church. This could take a year (minimum) or more.*

### 3. CURRENTLY DIVORCED :

- **Divorced but not remarried,** you may enter into the church, however if you plan to remarry, then you must receive an annulment.

To begin this process please contact Mary Beale at [mbeale@ap.church](mailto:mbeale@ap.church)