



Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of San Antonio

2718 W. Woodlawn Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78228

Voice 210-734-1661 / Fax 210-734-9957

Tribunal@archsa.org / www.archsa.org/Tribunal

Revised September 11, 2023

PETITION FORM FOR THE PETRINE PRIVILEGE

ABOUT THE PETRINE PRIVILEGE

The marriage between two non-Catholics, one of whom is baptized, (and in some cases, the marriage between a Catholic and a non-baptized person) can be dissolved by the Roman Pontiff in “favor of the faith.”

This dissolution is considered to be a pastoral remedy for the good of souls.

The favor is requested through the diocesan bishop, who is then responsible for gathering the necessary documentation and sending it to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF).

The CDF examines the request and forwards it to the Holy Father for his signature if all requirements have been fulfilled.

ELIGIBILITY

Certain conditions must be verified before the favor can be granted.

1. The marriage in question remains non-consummated after the baptism of the non-baptized party.
2. There is no possibility of restoring conjugal life.
3. The Petitioner was not the cause of the breakdown of the conjugal relationship.
4. The Petitioner's current or intended spouse did not provoke the breakdown of the conjugal relationship.
5. The Petitioner has fulfilled all moral and civil obligations toward the first spouse and any children of the union.
6. A Catholic party must declare that he or she is prepared to remove all dangers of defecting from the faith. If the Petitioner's current or intended spouse is non-Catholic, then the non-Catholic must declare that he or she is prepared to allow the Catholic the freedom to practice his or her religion and the freedom to baptize and educate any children as Catholics.
7. If a dispensation from disparity of cult was granted and a non-sacramental marriage was entered, the case can be presented for examination, if the Catholic party intends to enter a new marriage with a baptized party.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT REQUESTING THE PETRINE PRIVILEGE

you may consult the norms issued by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on the Preparation of the Process for the Dissolution of the Marriage Bond on the Vatican web site:

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20010430_favor-fidei_en.html

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. A completed Petition Form for the Petrine Privilege, including the "Letter to the Holy Father."
2. A Certificate of Baptism for all Catholic parties involved: the Petitioner, the Respondent, and the Petitioner's current or intended spouse. These must be recently issued from the church of baptism. They must include all sacramental notations and the parish seal.

If a party was baptized in a non-Catholic Christian church and was later received into the Catholic Church, a Certificate of Reception from the Catholic Church of reception is required. (Copies are not acceptable.)

3. A certified copy (i.e., stamped and dated by the county clerk) of the marriage license for the Petitioner and Respondent issued by the County Clerk's Office.
4. A certified copy of the civil divorce decree for the Petitioner and Respondent issued by the County Clerk's Office.
5. If the Petitioner and Respondent were married in the Catholic Church after receiving a dispensation from disparity of cult, a copy of the dispensation is required along with a copy of the pre-nuptial investigation.
6. If the Petitioner is currently in a civil marriage, a certified copy of the marriage license for the Petitioner and the Petitioner's current spouse issued by the County Clerk's Office.
7. If the Petitioner's current or intended spouse was in a previous marriage and has had that marriage declared null by the Catholic Church, a copy of the Final Notification of Nullity.

CASE FEE is \$450, payable by cash; check; or credit or debit card at <https://archsa.regfox.com/tribunal-case-fee>. A deposit of \$100 paid at submission is also acceptable with the remaining balance to be paid at the conclusion of the process.

The supreme law of the Church is the salvation of souls, so please understand it is always our desire to serve you as soon as possible. You should not delay submitting your petition due to lack of funds. We will handle all cases, regardless of ability to pay.

IF YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE MARRIAGE TO DISSOLVE, please complete a separate form for each marriage. The case fee for the second case for the same Petitioner is \$250; the case fee for the third case for the same petitioner is \$150. As explained above, all cases are considered independently of the Petitioner's ability to pay.

IF YOU NEED HELP with the form or obtaining documents, or have other questions or concerns, please contact us at the Tribunal.

ABOUT THE PETITIONER

FULL NAME: _____

(If female) MAIDEN NAME: _____

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

CITY & STATE OF BIRTH: _____

IF BAPTIZED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

DATE OF CATHOLIC BAPTISM: _____

CHURCH, CITY, STATE OF BAPTISM: _____

IF RECEIVED INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AFTER VALID CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

DATE OF RECEPTION INTO CATHOLIC CHURCH: _____

CHURCH, CITY, STATE OF RECEPTION INTO CATHOLIC CHURCH:

RELIGION AT THE TIME OF WEDDING: _____

CURRENT RELIGION: _____

ABOUT THE RESPONDENT

FULL NAME: _____

(If female) MAIDEN NAME: _____

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

CITY & STATE OF BIRTH: _____

IF BAPTIZED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

DATE OF CATHOLIC BAPTISM: _____

CHURCH, CITY, STATE OF BAPTISM: _____

IF RECEIVED INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AFTER VALID CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

DATE OF RECEPTION INTO CATHOLIC CHURCH: _____

CHURCH, CITY, STATE OF RECEPTION INTO CATHOLIC CHURCH:

RELIGION AT THE TIME OF WEDDING: _____

CURRENT RELIGION: _____

ABOUT THE MARRIAGE

DATE OF MARRIAGE: _____

NAME OF PLACE WHERE MARRIAGE WAS CELEBRATED
(e.g., church, courthouse, residence, venue, other)

CITY, STATE WHERE MARRIAGE WAS CELEBRATED:

NAME OF PRESIDING OFFICIAL:

PETITIONER'S AGE AT TIME OF CEREMONY: _____

RESPONDENT'S AGE AT TIME OF CEREMONY: _____

ABOUT ANY CHILDREN BORN OF THE MARRIAGE

LIST THE NAMES AND DATES OF BIRTH OF ALL CHILDREN BORN TO THE COUPLE.

ABOUT THE SEPARATION & DIVORCE

LENGTH OF TIME LIVING AS HUSBAND AND WIFE: _____

APPROXIMATE DATE OF FINAL SEPARATION: _____

DATE OF DIVORCE: _____

COUNTY & STATE OF DIVORCE:

FUTURE PLANS

- ☐ I am planning to remarry if and when the request for dissolution is granted.
- ☐ I am civilly married and would like to convalidate the marriage in the Catholic Church.

ABOUT MY CURRENT CIVIL SPOUSE OR INTENDED SPOUSE

FULL NAME: _____

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS:

DATE OF BIRTH: _____

NUMBER OF PREVIOUS MARRIAGES: _____

WAS HE/SHE BAPTIZED? ☐ Yes ☐ No

IF BAPTIZED, PLEASE NOTE WHICH APPLIES.

☐ Baptism in Roman Catholic Church

☐ Baptism in Eastern Catholic Church Specify Rite: _____

☐ Other Religion, please specify: _____

WITNESSES FOR THE PETITIONER

At least two (2) credible witnesses are required. Parents, relatives or others who have known the Petitioner from infancy to the present are preferred. Other Witnesses may be submitted on additional pages.

WITNESS #1

FULL NAME: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO THE PETITIONER: _____

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

WITNESS #2

FULL NAME: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO THE PETITIONER: _____

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

WITNESSES FOR THE RESPONDENT

At least two (2) credible witnesses are required. Parents, relatives or others who have known the Respondent from infancy to the present are preferred. Other Witnesses may be submitted on additional pages.

WITNESS #1

FULL NAME: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO THE PETITIONER: _____

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

WITNESS #2

FULL NAME: _____

RELATIONSHIP TO THE PETITIONER: _____

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S): _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

SIGNATURE PAGE

I solemnly swear that the information I have provided in this petition is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

Signature of Petitioner

Printed Name of Ecclesiastical Notary
Clergy/Lay Minister of the Parish or Tribunal

Name, City and State of Parish

Signature of Ecclesiastical Notary
Clergy/Lay Minister of the Parish or Tribunal

Date



Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of San Antonio

2718 W. Woodlawn Avenue, San Antonio, Texas 78228

Voice 210-734-1661 / Fax 210-734-9957

Tribunal@archsa.org / www.archsa.org/Tribunal

LETTER TO THE HOLY FATHER REQUESTING THE PETRINE PRIVILEGE

Date: _____

Most Holy Father,

I, _____, humbly present this petition
[Petitioner's Full Name]

for the dissolution of the natural bond of marriage, which I contracted with

_____ on _____,
[Respondent's Full Name] [Date of Marriage]

at _____.
[Place of Marriage, including Name of Venue, City, State]

- I was unbaptized prior to and throughout the duration of the marriage.
- My spouse and I did not ever have conjugal relations after baptism (if either of us were baptized).
- Neither I nor my intended spouse was the exclusive or prevailing culpable cause of the breakdown of the marriage.
- There is no possibility of restoring the partnership of conjugal life.
- Neither I nor my intended spouse have received dissolution in favor of the faith before.
- No public scandal would result should this dissolution be granted.

I sincerely request that you, as the Vicar of Christ, dissolve my non-sacramental marriage in favor of the faith, so that I may enter a new marriage validly and licitly according to the laws of God and of the Holy Catholic Church.

Sincerely,

[Signature of Petitioner]

[Complete Mailing Address above]

[Telephone Numbers]

[Email Address]