



**PETITION FOR FAVOR OF THE FAITH - PETRINE PRIVILEGE
IN FAVOR OF THE FAITH FOR THOSE WHO INTEND TO REMARRY IN THE CATHOLIC
CHURCH AFTER RECEIVING BAPTISM**

**Canonical and Tribunal Services
Diocese of Austin
6225 E US 290 HWY SVRD EB
Austin, TX 78723**

In order to determine whether to apply for a Favor of the Faith - Petrine Privilege, please review the following:

Canon 1150. In a doubtful matter the privilege of faith possesses the favor of the law.

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" (CDF Instruction, 30 April 2001). 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.

Requirements - 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 his/her moral and civil obligations toward the first spouse and offspring.
6. A Catholic party must declare that he/she is prepared to remove all dangers of defecting from the faith. The petitioner's current or intended spouse, if non-Catholic, must declare that he/she is prepared to allow the Catholic party the freedom to practice his/her religion and the freedom to baptize and educate the children as Catholics.
7. If the marriage to be dissolved had been entered into with a dispensation from disparity of cult, the case can be presented for examination only if the Catholic party intends to enter a new marriage with a baptized party.



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Case Title:

Case Number:

_____ *(for Tribunal Use Only)*

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(PLEASE PRINT)

1. PETITIONER Male Female Date / Place of Birth _____

(Mr Mrs Miss Dr) First Name Middle Maiden Present Last Name

Present Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone Numbers Email Address

2. RELIGION OF PETITIONER

Religion at time of marriage to the Respondent (former spouse) _____

Is it your present intention to become a Catholic? Yes No

Are you currently attending an RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)? Yes No

Where? _____

Name and address of church presently attending _____

Intended date of Baptism _____

Are you already baptized? Yes No

If yes, date of Baptism _____

Baptized in what denomination? _____

Current religion _____

Place of Baptism _____
Church, City, County, State

NOTE: If Baptized, Please Provide a Current Baptismal Certificate

3. WITNESSES FOR THE PETITIONER (According to Catholic Church law, the truth of a matter cannot be determined solely on the word of one person. Credible witnesses are required to verify the testimony of the parties involved in all cases submitted to the Church for resolution. Witnesses will need to answer questions about whether you or your former spouse were ever baptized. The names of parents, blood relatives and/or people who have knowledge of the parties from infancy to the present are preferable. Please provide two [2] credible witnesses who can attest that the Petitioner was NOT baptized at the time of the marriage to the Respondent).

Name & Address _____

Relationship/Telephone _____

Name & Address _____

Relationship/Telephone _____

4. RESPONDENT (Former Spouse) Male Female Date/Place of Birth _____

(Mr. Mrs. Miss Dr) First Name Middle Maiden Present Last Name

Present Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone Numbers _____ Email Address _____

IF THERE IS ANY REASON WHY RESPONDENT SHOULD NOT BE CONTACTED, PLEASE NOTE REASON.
(Proof must be provided through a Medical Report, Police Report or Court Order.)

5. RELIGION OF RESPONDENT

Respondent's religion at the time of the marriage _____ Present Religion _____

Did the Respondent submit to a ceremony of baptism by christening, sprinkling, or immersion and by Trinitarian form ("in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?")

Yes No

If yes, describe the Baptismal Ceremony:

Are you certain that the Respondent was never baptized? Yes No

6. WITNESSES FOR THE RESPONDENT (According to Catholic Church law, the truth of a matter cannot be determined solely on the word of one person. Credible witnesses are required to verify the testimony of the parties involved in all cases submitted to the Church for resolution. Witnesses will need to answer questions about whether you or your former spouse were ever baptized. The names of parents, blood relatives and/or people who have knowledge of the parties from infancy to the present are preferable. Please provide two [2] credible witnesses who can attest that the Respondent was NOT baptized at the time of the marriage to the Petitioner.)

Name & Address _____

Relationship/Telephone _____

Name & Address _____

Relationship/Telephone _____

7. RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND OF PETITIONER AND RESPONDENT

Did either Petitioner or Respondent attend Sunday School, or CCD or receive any religious instruction as a child?

Petitioner Yes No Respondent Yes No

Which church, if any, did the parents attend while raising their family (e.g., Catholic, Baptist, Methodist etc.) ?

Petitioner _____ Respondent _____

If the parents attended a church, was either party ever initiated into that church membership?

Petitioner _____ Respondent _____

8. MARRIAGE INFORMATION

Date and church/civil place of marriage (name, address, minister, i.e. priest, deacon, minister, rabbi, justice of peace) Provide a copy of the marriage license/certificate (a certified copy if issued by the County Clerk's Office).

Was this the first marriage for you? Yes No

If no, explain _____

Was this the first marriage for your ex-spouse? Yes No

If no, explain _____

How long did you live together as husband and wife? _____ Date of final separation _____

Date and place (city, county, state) of civil divorce _____

Provide a certified copy of the divorce decree.

Reason for the break-up of marriage _____

Is there any hope of you and your former spouse being reconciled? Explain _____

Has your former spouse remarried? If yes, date and church/civil ceremony, minister, city, county, state?

9. CHILDREN OF THE FIRST MARRIAGE - Names and birth dates of children of this marriage

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

10. PRESENT OR INTENDED MARRIAGE

Name of INTENDED PRESENT spouse

| | | | |
|-------|--------|--------|------|
| First | Middle | Maiden | Last |
|-------|--------|--------|------|

If you have not yet remarried, please provide the address of your future spouse/ fiancé/ fiancée.

What is your spouse/fiancé/ fiancée's current religion?

What is the denomination, date and place of Baptism?

Provide a currently dated Baptism certificate.

If you have NOT yet married, date & church/place of intended marriage

If you are currently married: date and church/place of marriage (name, address, Church/civil ceremony, denomination of church, justice of the peace).

Provide a copy of the marriage license/certificate (a certified copy if issued by the County Clerk's Office).

Did your present or intended spouse have a prior marriage(s)? Yes No

Provide a copy of the marriage license/certificate , divorce decree , copy of nullity , or death certificate , if applicable

Were you or your current/intended spouse responsible for the break-up of this marriage? Yes No

If yes, explain _____

MARRIAGE HISTORY OF THE PETITIONER

List all marriages from past to present.

| A. PETITIONER'S NAME _____ | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Spouse Name First & Last | Date of Marriage | Date of Divorce | Was the spouse in a prior marriage? If so, provide the name of this person's previous spouse. Catholic or Non-Catholic? | Was the spouse living or deceased at the time of the subsequent marriage? Provide death certificate if deceased. |
| 1st | | | Name: Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> | Living () Deceased () |
| 2nd | | | Name: Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> | Living () Deceased () |
| 3rd | | | Name: Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> | Living () Deceased () |
| 4th | | | Name: Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> | Living () Deceased () |

MARRIAGE HISTORY OF THE RESPONDENT

List all marriages from past to present.

| A. RESPONDENT'S NAME _____ | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Spouse Name First & Last | Date of Marriage | Date of Divorce | Was the spouse in a prior marriage? If so, provide the name of this person's previous spouse. Catholic or Non-Catholic? | Was the spouse living or deceased at the time of the subsequent marriage? Provide death certificate if deceased. |
| 1st | | | Name: Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> | Living () Deceased () |
| 2nd | | | Name: Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> | Living () Deceased () |
| 3rd | | | Name: Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> | Living () Deceased () |
| 4th | | | Name: Catholic <input type="checkbox"/> Non <input type="checkbox"/> | Living () Deceased () |

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

1. **A Certificate of Baptism** for all Catholic parties involved: the Petitioner, the Respondent and the Petitioner’s current or intended spouse. These must be issued from the church of baptism within the last six months. 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 Profession of Faith** from the Catholic Church of reception is required. (Copies are not acceptable).
2. **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.
3. **A certified copy of the civil divorce decree** for the Petitioner and Respondent issued by the County Clerk’s Office.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 sentence** or a **copy of the death certificate** if the spouse is deceased is required.

I, the undersigned _____, state under oath that the statements in this Petition are true. I respectfully petition the Tribunal of the Diocese of Austin to investigate the possibility of the use of the Privilege of the Faith regarding the marriage which I intend to contract with (*name of intended*) _____, on (*expected date of marriage*) _____, at (*name of church, address, city, state, zip code*) _____.

Enclosed is the required documentation. Enclose check in the sum of **\$450.00**, which will be sent to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome. Make check payable to the Diocese of Austin.

Print Name of Petitioner

Print Name of Pastor or Advocate

Signature of Petitioner

Signature of Pastor or Advocate

Date _____

Parish

(Parish Seal)

Address

The following are included (*initial each*):

The following are included (*initial each*):

1. _____ Certified copy of marriage license/certificate between Petitioner & Respondent
2. _____ Certified copy of civil divorce decree between Petitioner & Respondent
3. _____ Copy of dispensation from disparity of cult
4. _____ Copy of the prenuptial investigation
5. _____ Correct addresses for Petitioner, Respondent and witnesses
6. _____ If baptized, current Baptismal Certificate
7. _____ Baptism certificate of current spouse/ fiancé/ fiancée
8. _____ If required, copy of Declaration of Nullity
9. _____ If required, copy of the death certificate of deceased former spouse
10. _____ Check for **\$475.00** made payable to the “*Diocese of Austin*” for Vatican processing by the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith.
11. _____ For all other applicable fees, please see fee page.

**Notation on the check should include your name and
“*Privilege of the Faith*”**

Send to:

Diocese of Austin
Office of Canonical & Tribunal Services
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