HOW TO DETERMINE A PETRINE PRIVILEGE CASE

“It is well known that under certain determined conditions the marriages between non-Catholics, at least one of whom is not baptized, can be dissolved in the favor of the faith and for the salvation of souls by the Roman Pontiff.” (Potestas Ecclesiae, Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, 30 April 2001).

The following questions will help to determine whether you have a Petrine Privilege case.

1. □ YES □ NO Was one party in the marriage unbaptized prior to the marriage and remained so throughout the marriage?
2. □ YES □ NO Is it true that there is no hope that the couple will be reconciled?
3. □ YES □ NO Is it true that the petitioner was not the predominant cause of the breakup of the marriage?
4. □ YES □ NO (Check if applicable): If the unbaptized party later became baptized, is it true both parties have not had conjugal relations since after his/her baptism?
5. □ YES □ NO If the petitioner or his/her intended spouse is not a Catholic, is the non-Catholic party willing to sign the promise to raise any children born of the new marriage as Catholics and not hinder the Catholic party’s practice of the faith?
6. □ YES □ NO Does the petitioner have a fiancé or spouse whom he/she wishes to marry in the Catholic Church?
7. □ YES □ NO Is the petitioner’s a fiancé or spouse free to marry in the Catholic Church?
8. □ YES □ NO Is it true that the new fiancé/spouse was not the cause of the breakup of the marriage for which you are seeking a favor of the faith?
9. □ YES □ NO Is the Catholic party actively practicing the faith?
10. □ YES □ NO Is it true that the granting of the favor would not be a cause of scandal?

If the answers to all the questions are YES, you may a Petrine Privilege case. Kindly send a copy of this completed form to the Tribunal. If the Tribunal determines that it is indeed a Petrine Privilege case, we will then send you the Petrine Privilege petition and a list of the required documents. If a Petrine Privilege case cannot be proven, it may be necessary to complete the forms for a formal case.

If the answer to any of the questions is NO, then you have a case other than Petrine. Kindly call the Tribunal at 504-861-6291 for assistance.

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