

OFFICE OF THE DIOCESAN TRIBUNAL

MISSION

The mission the Tribunal is defined in canon law. The Tribunal is the local Church court and is charged with the vindication of ecclesial and ecclesiastical rights in the Church and the adjudication of cases concerning spiritual matters or those connected with the spiritual. It adjudicates the violation of ecclesiastical laws and determines culpability and the imposition of ecclesiastical penalties. It deals with all matters dealing with Church law.

Most of the matters handled by the Tribunal involve marriage nullity cases. However, the Tribunal also deals with cases of dispensation from the clerical state and matters of clerical sexual abuse.

Members of the Tribunal staff assist priests, deacons, parish staff and religious educators in answering questions concerning issues pertaining to Church law.

Dispensations from ecclesiastical law are processed through the Tribunal.

PROGRAMS

- Our staff psychologist meets with parties who have gone through the process of annulment and who need assistance in preparing for remarriage.
- We provide references for those seeking marriage counselling from a Catholic perspective.
- Members of the staff assist in marriage preparation programs, such as Engaged Encounter.
- We are very happy to present programs and visit parishes to educate people regarding annulments.