

*For more information call:*

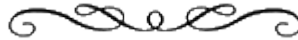
***“He drew me out of  
the pit of destruction,  
out of the  
mud of the swamp,  
set my feet upon  
rock, steadied my  
steps, and put a new  
song in my mouth, a  
hymn to our God.  
Many shall look on in  
awe and they shall  
trust in the Lord.”***

***Psalm 40:3-4***

**St. Margaret Mary  
Catholic Church**

**1050 Robert Blvd.  
Slidell, LA 70458**

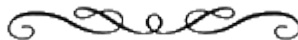
**Patricia Taylor  
985-774-3747**



**Our Lady of Lourdes  
Catholic Church**

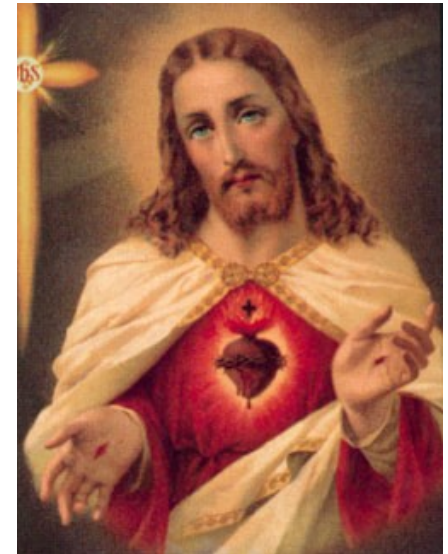
**400 Westchester Place  
Slidell, LA 70458**

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# ***Annulment Ministry***

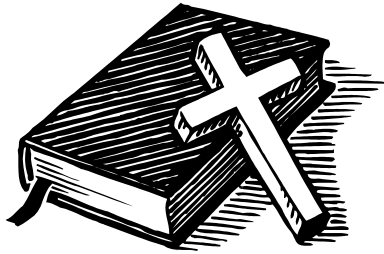
***East Northshore***



**He heals the broken-  
hearted and binds up  
their wounds.  
Psalm 147:3**

## Purpose

The annulment Support Group provides information about the annulment process, and, in a supportive atmosphere, aids those desiring an annulment by inspiring them to recollect those memories necessary in responding to the questions of the annulment papers.



## Target Audience

- A. Persons seeking annulments
- B. Witnesses for those seeking annulments
- C. Anyone desiring information about the process

## Pastoral Staff

All meetings are conducted by persons either educated in the annulment process by profession or by lived experience. Normally at least one Deacon is in attendance and Priests and other Religious are sometimes invited to speak as well.

## Workshops

Workshops are held each year in the spring and/or fall. Usually each workshop consists of one info session and four writing sessions. The info session consists of a presentation followed by ample time for questions and answers. Each writing session addresses one part of the Archdiocesan guideline for writing personal testimony which must accompany petitions for annulment. Writing sessions begin with personal testimony given by one or more of the staff followed by a period of quiet time during which petitioners can write as the staff retires to pray. One or more facilitators are available to writers for consultation during this time.

## Benefits

### Personal Healing

Unlike the civil divorce, the annulment process addresses the spiritual aspects of the marriage breakup. In telling their stories, people gain new insights into themselves and their former spouses. Anger and faultfinding which were prevalent in the divorce proceedings are replaced with true forgiveness and closure.

### Freedom to Marry

For those considering remarriage, it is essential to start this process, for without it, marriage in the Catholic Church is not possible.

### Access to the Sacraments

For those who have remarried outside the Catholic Church, your return to Christ in the sacraments will be a rebirth and a powerful experience of His love and mercy.

### Justification

It is hard for Catholics to think of applying for annulments because marriage is a sacrament which can be received but once, and because they recall the words from Sacred Scripture as to its permanence. Please come and learn more about the true sacramental nature of marriage, and the provisions made in Canon Law that may show that the marriage was actually not sacramental.