

The process for the declaration of the nullity of marriage, commonly called annulment, is a process of healing, self-understanding, soul-searching, and a channel of receiving God's graces and redemption. Many people who have passed through the process speak of the grace, peace, and reconciliation with God it has brought them, of the formal closure it gave them, and of the healing it has brought them. We are, therefore, fortunate to have in the Archdiocese of New Orleans tribunal ministers who are instruments of the healing grace of the Holy Spirit.

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans, LA
January 3, 2018

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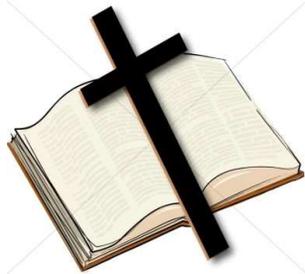
***Annulment
Ministry***



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

Purpose

The Annulment Ministry provides information about the annulment process; and in supportive atmosphere, aids those desiring an annulment by inspiring them to recollect those memories necessary in responding to the Marriage Annulment Questionnaire.



Target Audience

- * Divorced persons seeking an annulment
- * Witnesses for those seeking an annulment
- * Anyone desiring information about the process

Pastoral Staff

Persons either educated in the annulment process by profession or by lived experience conduct all meetings. Normally at least one Deacon or Priest is in attendance

Workshops

Writing Workshops are held each year in the spring and in the fall. Usually each workshop consists of one information session and four writing sessions. The information 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 prays. One or more facilitators are available 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 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 by Canon law that may show that the marriage was actually not sacramental.