



Convalidation

Bringing YOUR Marriage
into THE Church

Convalidation Information Evening – Suggested Format for Parishes/Cohorts

- Welcome and Opening Prayer

- Opening Segment: It's all about the welcoming – “We invite you to bring new meaning to your relationship by marrying in the Catholic Church.”
 - Pope Francis on convalidation (*Amoris Laetitia*, The Discernment of Irregular Situations, # 296-300)
 - Video testimony - play the dvd co-produced by the Dept. of YMFL and the Department of Multimedia Production that features the witness of couples who've gone through or are preparing for convalidation, and priests who've helped prepare the couples for Catholic marriage (available in two versions – English and Spanish).

- What is Convalidation/what makes marriage valid in the Catholic Church?
 - Capacity
 - Consent
 - Canonical Form

- Why Marry Catholic? The many benefits of Catholic Marriage (See Convalidation brochure)
 - The grace of the sacrament (indwelling of the Holy Spirit; Jesus is the third partner)
 - A place in salvation history – Catholic marriage is a saving reality
 - The help and support of the community of faithful (the parish community)

- Overview of Ten Steps Toward Convalidation – How Do I Get Started
 - Contact the parish to begin the conversation
 - Obtain baptismal certificates
 - Complete paperwork - Pre-Nuptial investigation



- Participate in formational sessions at the parish – preparation for the sacrament
 - If there is a prior marriage, seek an annulment
 - Pre-marital inventory (FOCCUS or ReFOCCUS)
 - Attend Pre-Cana (To Trust Again Remarriage Workshop) or Marriage Encounter
 - Plan wedding ceremony and reception
 - Celebrate Sacrament of Reconciliation
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- Frequently Asked Questions/Q and A