

*For I know well
the plans
I have in mind
for you,
plans
for your welfare
and
not for woe,
so as to give
you a future
of hope.*

(Jeremiah 29:11)

OUR TRIBUNAL STAFF

is here to serve you!

OFFICE HOURS:
8:30 AM - 5 PM
(closed for lunch 12PM - 1PM)

ADDRESS:
Tribunal, 2718 W. Woodlawn Ave.
San Antonio, TX 78228

PHONE:
210-734-1661 or 210-734-2620

FAX:
210-734-1987

EMAIL:
Tribunal@archsa.org

WEB SITE:
www.archsa.org/Tribunal

THE WHO, WHAT,
WHERE, WHEN,
WHY & HOW
OF ANNULMENTS



Revised September 2021

THE WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY & HOW OF ANNULMENTS

WHO? Persons who are divorced

may wonder about the status of a former marriage. Some are looking only for peace of conscience and clarity about their vocation. Others may be entering the Catholic Church and have prior marriages to resolve. Still others may be considering a new relationship and a possible future marriage in the Catholic Church.

WHAT? A Petition for a Declaration of Marriage Nullity

asks a Tribunal to determine whether or not a valid and binding bond was created at the time of consent. Neither party to the marriage is on trial; rather, the marriage is on trial. If granted, a decree of nullity states that, on the basis of evidentiary proof, the relationship did not rise to the level of what the Catholic Church understands marriage to be as created by Almighty God. For a marriage to be declared invalid, either one of the essential elements of marriage was missing at the time of consent or at least one of the parties lacked the necessary personal capacity for competent consent.

WHERE? Your Local Tribunal

is a good place to find answers to marriage nullity questions, and is the place to submit petitions for a declaration of marriage nullity.

Your **Local Catholic Parish** may have a minister available to work with you on your petition and submit it on your behalf.

Individuals are also most welcome to submit petitions directly to the Tribunal. Petitions may be mailed to Tribunal, 2718 W. Woodlawn Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78228, or submitted during business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00 pm.

If you have questions about new or existing petitions, you can write, email or call us; leave a message if you need help after hours, and we will accommodate you.

WHEN?

A petition for a declaration of marriage nullity should be submitted **only after the divorce is final**. However, one can start working on the questionnaire and collecting the other necessary documents, while waiting for the final divorce decree.

WHY?

Every marriage is presumed valid, unless it is proven to be invalid.

Even if one divorces for grave reasons, one remains bound to the vows made. Therefore, an investigation of a marriage must be conducted and the invalidity of the marriage proven, before the parties can be released from the vows they made, in order to protect the parties and to protect the Sacrament of Marriage.

HOW?

The Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church

addresses the process by which the Tribunal receives a petition for a declaration of marriage nullity; conducts the examination of the marriage; and renders a decision.

The Code protects the rights of both parties as well as the Sacrament of Marriage.