



TRIBUNAL

DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES

P. O. Box 3223

Lake Charles, LA 70602

(337) 439-7400

***FAVOR OF THE FAITH* PETITION INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS**

Preliminary questions about the merit of the case should be asked by the priest who is helping the couple with this process. Once all the preliminary documents are submitted to the Tribunal, the case will be instructed in Lake Charles and then it will be referred to the Holy See for resolution.

FORMS AND DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR A *FAVOR OF THE FAITH* PETITION

Petitioner:

- Fact Sheet
- Initial Interview Form to be completed with Parish Priest
- Marriage License for each marriage; Originals will be returned.
- Marriage Certificate for each marriage; Originals will be returned.
- Divorce Decree (*final*) for each marriage
- If Jewish, the Final Divorce Decree and the “get”
- Certificate of Death of spouse if applicable to any marriage
- *Affidavit of non-baptism and questionnaires from at least 2 witnesses of each non-baptized party (Petitioner, Other Party, or both)*
 - *N.B. (The non-baptized person and his/her witnesses will be cited to come to the Tribunal and give testimony once. Arrangements will be made when the case is accepted.)*
- Baptismal certificate for children of all marriages, if applicable
- Expense Form signed by Petitioner
- If Petitioner is baptized or is in RCIA, letter of recommendation from parish priest and baptismal certificate.
- If there ever was a civil/criminal conviction or problem, records and documentation are to be included in the case.
- If there ever was a psychological/psychiatric problem, treatment, diagnosis, hospitalization, etc., medical records are to be included.
- Marriage certificate of present marriage of Petitioner and Catholic Party, if applicable

Other Party (first spouse of Petitioner):

- Complete name and present address of this party must be given by the Petitioner
- If this person is the non-baptized party, the proofs of non-baptism fall on him/her, and therefore the two witnesses must be on his/her side (family, relatives). Arrangements for their testimonies will be made.

Catholic Party or Prospective Spouse:

- Baptismal Certificate (recently issued, with notations on back)
- Baptismal Certificate for children of all marriages, if applicable
- Marriage License for each marriage (long form of marriage certificate) if applicable
- Marriage Certificate for each marriage, if applicable. All originals will be returned.
- Divorce decree
- Annulment decree and sentence, if applicable
- Certificate of Death of Spouse, if applicable
- Letter of recommendation from parish priest

If a civil marriage has been attempted and/or if there are baptized children of the union of Petitioner/Catholic-Prospective Spouse, please include the original certificates of marriage/baptism.

If you have any question as to whether or not the particular case qualifies as a *Favor of the Faith* case, please contact the Tribunal. When the completed documentation is received, the case will receive a protocol number and will be assigned to an Instructor who will cite the parties and their witnesses, and will prepare the case to be submitted to the Holy Father for final decision.

CASE # _____

CASE NAME: _____

FACT SHEET

PETITIONER

_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>First Name</i>	<i>Middle Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Maiden Name</i>
_____		_____	
<i>Address</i>		<i>Apt #</i>	
_____		_____	
<i>City</i>		<i>State</i>	<i>ZIP</i>
_____		_____	
<i>Cell Phone Number</i>		<i>Work Phone Number</i>	
_____		_____	
<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>Place of Birth</i>	<i>Religion at time of marriage</i>	
_____	_____	_____	
<i>If religion changed, indicate when.</i>	<i>Date of Baptism</i>	<i>Church of Baptism</i>	
_____	_____	_____	
<i>Church Address</i>			

<i>Father's name</i>		<i>Religion</i>	<i>Living?</i>
_____		_____	_____
<i>Mother's name</i>		<i>Religion</i>	<i>Living?</i>
_____		_____	_____

OTHER PARTY

_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>First Name</i>	<i>Middle Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Maiden Name</i>
_____		_____	
<i>Address</i>		<i>Apt #</i>	
_____		_____	
<i>City</i>		<i>State</i>	<i>ZIP</i>
_____		_____	
<i>Cell Phone Number</i>		<i>Work Phone Number</i>	
_____		_____	
<i>Date of Birth</i>	<i>Place of Birth</i>	<i>Religion at time of marriage</i>	
_____	_____	_____	
<i>If religion changed, indicate when.</i>	<i>Date of Baptism</i>	<i>Church of Baptism</i>	
_____	_____	_____	
<i>Church Address</i>			

<i>Father's name</i>		<i>Religion</i>	<i>Living?</i>
_____		_____	_____
<i>Mother's name</i>		<i>Religion</i>	<i>Living?</i>
_____		_____	_____

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

Was this the first marriage for Petitioner? _____ Was this the first marriage for the Other Party? _____

Was cohabitation occurring before marriage? _____ Was there a pregnancy before marriage? _____

Approximate Meeting Date *Length of Courtship* *Date of Engagement* *Length of Engagement*

Date of Wedding *Church of Wedding* *Length of time living together*

How many children did you and the Other Party have together? _____ Were they baptized? _____

Date of Final Separation *Date of Legal Separation* *# of other separations* *Length of time*

A _____
Date of Divorce *Place of Divorce* *Decree Number*

B _____
Date of Civil Annulment *Place of Civil Annulment* *Decree Number*

Grounds for **A** or **B**: _____

Has there been any other marriage before or after the marriage noted above? _____ If so, how many? _____

CATHOLIC PARTY (Prospective Spouse)

First Name *Middle Name* *Last Name* *Maiden Name*

Address *Apt #*

City *State* *ZIP*

Cell Phone Number *Work Phone Number*

Date of Birth *Place of Birth* *Religion*

If religion changed, indicate when. *Date of Baptism* *Church of Baptism*

Church Address

Father's name *Religion* *Living?*

Mother's name *Religion* *Living?*

WITNESSES

Persons who can verify the Baptismal status of you and your former spouse and are willing to testify.

1

First Name *Last Name* *Relationship to You*

Address *Apt #*

City *State* *ZIP*

Cell Phone Number *Is this person willing to testify?* _____

2

First Name *Last Name* *Relationship to You*

Address *Apt #*

City *State* *ZIP*

Cell Phone Number *Is this person willing to testify?* _____

3

First Name *Last Name* *Relationship to You*

Address *Apt #*

City *State* *ZIP*

Cell Phone Number *Is this person willing to testify?* _____

4

First Name *Last Name* *Relationship to You*

Address *Apt #*

City *State* *ZIP*

Cell Phone Number *Is this person willing to testify?* _____

CASE # _____

CASE NAME: _____

Petitioner's Name

Other Party's Name

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE EXPENSES

As the Petitioner for the Church's judgment concerning my marital status, I do understand that the Diocese of Lake Charles will incur expenses. However, at this time the Tribunal is only charging \$80⁰⁰. The Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith's current fee is \$630⁰⁰, which must be paid to them.

I agree to pay a fee of \$630⁰⁰ in the following way: *(Select one)*

Single payment of \$630⁰⁰

Installments of _____

As an indication that I have read the above, understand the stipulations, and promise to abide by this statement, I herewith affix my signature.

Petitioner's Signature

Date

** If there is a true inability to pay for the Dicastery's fee, please inform us and after providing the necessary proof, a decision will be made in this regard.*

CASE # _____

CASE NAME: _____

POLICY STATEMENT

I, _____, understand that:
Petitioner's Name

- 1) A dissolution of my marriage cannot be petitioned unless I provide evidence sufficient as required by law;
- 2) Submitting this petition does not guarantee that a dissolution will be granted in the affirmative;
- 3) All the rights of my former spouse will be protected as well as mine;
- 4) I cannot set a date for marriage or validation in the Catholic Church until the outcome of my case is known.

Petitioner's Signature

Date

LETTER FROM PASTOR ON BEHALF OF THE CATHOLIC PARTY

A priest assists the processing of the *Favor of the Faith* case by writing a letter of recommendation on behalf of the **Catholic Party**. He is to indicate

- 1) *Whether or not the Catholic Party is known to him (how long, etc.).*
- 2) *Whether or not he/she practices the Catholic faith.*
- 3) *What is his impression of his/her honesty and truthfulness?*
- 4) *If this dissolution were granted, would it be a cause of scandal or wonderment in the community?*
- 5) *Would he recommend the granting of this dispensation in order that the Catholic Party be married in the Catholic Church?*

Any additional information would be greatly appreciated.

** If the Petitioner is in the RCIA program, the parish priest can also give a letter of recommendation on his/her behalf.*