

DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES
414 Iris Street
Lake Charles, LA 70601
337-439-7400



INSTRUCTIONS AND FORMS
FAVOR OF THE FAITH CASE

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) Notarized by Notary Public*
 - o *(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.

Tribunal of the Diocese of Lake Charles

Refers to _____
(Petitioner / Other Party)

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR WITNESS

(Please respond on separate paper, as completely and candidly as possible.)

1. What is your full name (maiden name also, if married)?
2. What is your complete address (please include zip code)?
3. What is your relationship to NN?
4. When and where did you first meet NN?
5. What is your religion? What is the name of the church/temple you attend, if any?
6. Have you ever been baptized in any Christian church? If yes, when and where?
7. What was the religion of each of the parents of NN at the time of NN's birth and childhood?
8. At the time of NN's birth and childhood, did each or either of the parents believe that baptism was necessary for salvation? Did each or either of the parents believe in infant baptism?
9. While growing up, was NN ever under the care of foster-parents or guardians?
10. What is the religion of NN?
11. Has NN ever been baptized or christened in any Christian religion? If so, please indicate the name and location of the church of baptism.
12. If NN has not been baptized, what is the basis of your knowledge of this fact?
13. If the parents, or either of them, believed that baptism was necessary for salvation, and if NN was never baptized in infancy, childhood or adolescence, please explain the reason for this non-baptism.
14. What churches/temples/Sunday schools did NN attend during childhood and adolescence? Please indicate the names and denomination of the churches.
15. Did NN attend or join any church as an adult, prior to or during his/her marriage?
16. Have any of the siblings of NN been baptized? If so, please indicate the names, the ages of baptism, and the religious denomination of the baptism.

17. If some of the siblings were baptized and NN was not, would you explain the reason for the different practice?
18. What is the name and religion of the former spouse of NN?
19. Were they married in a religious ceremony? If so, please indicate the religious denomination.
20. Were there any children born of that marriage? If so, what is their religion? Have they been baptized in any religion?
21. What was the cause of the breakup of that marriage? Please describe the reasons for the breakup of the marriage.
22. Is there any possibility of the reconciliation of that marriage?
23. What is the reputation of NN with regard to honesty and truthfulness?
24. Would you have any objection to the Catholic Church permitting NN to remarry in the Catholic Church?
25. Is there anything you wish to add?
26. Do you swear to the truth of the statements you have made above?

Date:

Note: Please answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper. Sign your name to the answer sheet and to the accompanying affidavit, and please have your signature notarized by a **notary public**. Include a copy of any official ID.
Thank you.

Tribunal of the Diocese of Lake Charles

CASE NAMES _____ - _____ CASE # _____

AFFIDAVIT FOR WITNESS CONCERNING NON-BAPTISM

I, _____, residing at _____
(Name of witness) (Full address)

hereby declare that I am _____ of _____
(Relationship) (Party's name)

in the above cited case. I have known him/her for _____ years.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, _____
(Party's name)

is not a Christian, has never been baptized in any Christian faith, and has been a member

of the _____ all of his/her life.
(Religion)

Typed Name of Witness

Date

Witness's Signature in Presence of Notary Public

SWORN TO BEFORE ME, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 20____

Tribunal of the Diocese of Lake Charles

CASE NAMES _____ - _____ CASE # _____

AFFIDAVIT CONCERNING NON-BAPTISM

I, _____, residing at _____
(Name of witness) (Full address)

hereby declare that I am _____ of _____
(Relationship) (Party's name)

in the above cited case. I have known him/her for _____ years.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, _____
(Party's name)

is not a Christian, has never been baptized in any Christian faith, and has been a member

of the _____ all of his/her life.
(Religion)

Typed Name of Witness

Date

Witness's Signature in Presence of Notary Public

SWORN TO BEFORE ME, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 20____

Tribunal of the Diocese of Lake Charles

CASE # _____

CASE NAME _____

Petitioner's Name

Other Party's Name

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE EXPENSES

As the Petitioner for the Church judgment concerning my marital status, I do understand that the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of New York will incur expenses. However, at this time the Tribunal is only charging \$100. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith' current fee is \$475.00, which must be paid to them.

I agree to pay a fee of \$575.00 in the following way:

(Circle one)

Single payment of \$575.

Installments, as follow _____.

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

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

Date

Petitioner's Signature

Tribunal of the Diocese of Lake Charles

CASE # _____ CASE NAME: _____

FACT SHEET

PETITIONER'S NAME _____
First M.I. Last (Woman's Maiden Name)

Address _____
Street, Apt. City State Zip Code

Telephone Home () _____ Work () _____

Date of birth _____ Place of birth _____

Religion (at time of marriage) _____ If changed, indicate when _____

Baptism _____
Date Church Name Address

Father's name _____ Religion _____ Living? _____

Mother's name _____ Religion _____ Living? _____

RESPONDENT'S NAME _____
(Former spouse) First M.I. Last (Woman's Maiden Name)

Address _____
Street, Apt. City State Zip Code

Telephone Home () _____ Work () _____

Date of birth _____ Place of birth _____

Religion (at time of marriage) _____ If changed, indicate when _____

Baptism _____
Date Church Name Address

Father's name _____ Religion _____ Living? _____

Mother's name _____ Religion _____ Living? _____

MARRIAGE INFORMATION

First marriage for Petitioner? _____ Other Party? _____

Approximate meeting date _____ Length of courtship _____

Date of engagement _____ Length of engagement _____

Cohabitation before marriage? _____ Pregnancy before marriage? _____

Date of wedding _____ Church of wedding _____

Number of children _____ Were they baptized? _____

How long did the couple live together? _____

Separations other than final? _____ How many? _____ How long? _____

Date of final separation _____ Date of legal separation _____

a) Divorce: Date _____ Place _____ Decree # _____

b) Civil annulment: Date _____ Place _____ Decree # _____

Grounds for a) or b) _____

Has there been any other marriage before or after the marriage noted above? _____

If so, how many? _____

CATHOLIC PARTY'S NAME _____

(Prospective spouse) First M.I. Last (Woman's Maiden Name)

Address _____
Street, Apt. City State Zip Code

Telephone Home () _____ Work () _____

Date of birth _____ Place of birth _____

Religion _____ If changed, indicate when and where _____

Baptism _____
Date Church Name 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.

Name _____ Name _____
Address _____ Address _____
City, St, Zip _____ City, St, Zip _____
Telephone # _____ Telephone # _____
Relationship to you _____ Relationship to you _____

Name _____ Name _____
Address _____ Address _____
City, St, Zip _____ City, St, Zip _____
Telephone # _____ Telephone # _____
Relationship to you _____ Relationship to you _____

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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 whether or not the Catholic Party is known to him (how long, etc.)

Whether or not he/she practices the Catholic faith.

What is his impression of his/her honesty and truthfulness?

If this dissolution were granted, would it be a cause of scandal or wonderment in the community?

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.

Tribunal of the Diocese of Lake Charles

POLICY STATEMENT

Case # _____ Case Name: _____

I, _____, understand that:
(Petitioner)

- 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.

Signature of Petitioner

Date

Tribunal of the Diocese of Lake Charles

**FAVOR OF THE FAITH
DEPOSITION OF PETITIONER BY PRIEST WITNESS**

_____, having identified himself/herself by
_____ (specify means of identification), and being duly
sworn, deposes as follows (please complete all pertinent questions):

1. What is your full name/ maiden name? _____
2. What is your present address? _____
3. When and where were you born? _____
If born in a hospital indicate its name and address _____

4. What is your father's name? _____
5. What is or was his religion? _____
6. If deceased, when did he die? _____
7. Was he ever baptized? If so, in what sect? _____
8. What was your mother's maiden name? _____
9. What is your mother's maiden and present name? _____
10. What is or was her religion? _____
11. Was she ever baptized? If so, in what sect? _____
12. If deceased, when did she? _____
13. By whom were you brought up? _____
If not by parents, indicate names and addresses of guardians, and dates of their guardianship.

14. What is your religion? _____
15. With what other denominations have you ever affiliated? Please give names of sects and
approximate periods of affiliation. _____

16. Have you ever been baptized? _____ If so, when (how old were you) _____
Where? (Name and address of church) _____
In what denomination? _____ How do you know
of this baptism? (Please be specific) _____
17. Were you ever baptized previous o the baptism just referred to above? _____
If so, when, where, in what denomination? _____
18. If you state that you never were baptized previous to your baptism in the Catholic faith, how do
you know this? (Please be specific) _____
When did you first learn that you were never baptized? _____
Why didn't your parents or guardians have you baptized in infancy? _____
Why were you not baptized later? _____
19. Did your father believe baptism to be necessary for salvation? _____
Did he believe in infant baptism? _____
20. Did your mother believe baptism to be necessary for salvation? _____
Did she believe in infant baptism? _____
21. How do you know that your parents held such beliefs? _____

22. Which parent had the dominant influence in your religious training? _____
23. If your parents believed baptism necessary for salvation and in infant baptism, why did they not
have you baptized? _____
24. Do you have any brothers or sisters? _____ If so, give the following information:
Name, complete address, age, of each one:

25. Were any of them baptized? _____ If so, give the following information:
Name, date of baptism, name and address of church
26. If any of them were baptized and you were not, how do you explain this? _____

27. List all churches, Sunday schools, or religious training which you ever attended:
Name of church or school, complete address, and dates of attendance.

28. Please indicate the name of churches, if any, that your father attended during your childhood:

29. Please indicate the names of churches, if any, that your mother attended during your childhood:

30. Did anyone ever tell you that you were or were not baptized? _____

If so, who and when? Please give details of what was said: _____

31. Did you ever hear anyone referred to as your godfather or godmother? _____

32. How many times have you been married? _____

33. Concerning your first (or only) marriage, give the following information:

Name _____

Present address _____

Present name _____

Religion at the time of the marriage/ Present religion _____

Was this person ever baptized? _____ If so, where? _____

34. Please give names and complete addresses of any persons, preferably parents or relatives, who can testify to your/your spouse's non-baptism: _____

35. When did your marriage to this person take place? _____

Where? _____

Before whom (civil official, priest, minister, judge, rabbi, etc.)? _____

Were there a civil and a religious ceremony? _____

36. How long did you live together as husband and wife? _____

37. Were there any children born of this marriage? _____ If so, were they baptized? _____

38. Why did this marriage broke up? _____

39. When did you separate? _____

40. Is there a civil divorce or civil annulment granted? _____ If so, please complete the following:

Date and Place (County, State) of final decree _____

Name of plaintiff _____ Grounds _____

Were those grounds true? _____

41. Has your spouse attempted another marriage? _____ If so, when, where, and with whom?

42. If there is more than one marriage, please use another page or the reverse of this page, and give the same information requested for the first marriage.

43. If there was a baptism in the Catholic faith, state if prior to that baptism:

I know positively that I was baptized before _____

I know positively that I was not baptized before _____

I merely assumed that I was baptized before _____

I simply do not know whether I was or was not baptized before _____

44. Given names and addresses of all persons, preferably relatives, who can testify that you (and/or your spouse) have never been baptized.

45. Do you petition to be allowed to invoke the Petrine Privilege so that you may marry a Catholic?

46. What is the name of the Catholic you wish to marry? _____

What is his/her address? _____

When did you meet this person? _____

Did this person play any role in the breakup of your marriage? _____

Are you living together? _____

Have you already attempted marriage with this Catholic person? _____

I, the undersigned, in the presence of Almighty God, do hereby solemnly swear that in answering these questions I have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

Given at _____ on the _____ day of _____, 20____

Signature of Deponent

Signature of Priest (Witness)

N.B. Each page of the deposition is to bear 1) signature of witness, and 2) seal of the church. On the reverse side of this page the witness is asked to give an estimation of the credibility and sincerity of the deponent.