

The Church recognizes that the marriages of some people do end, for one reason or another. This is the reality which is of concern to the Tribunal system of the Church.

The Tribunal will investigate a failed marriage to determine whether or not the marriage in question met the expectations the Church has for a true marital union and whether God holds the parties bound to the vows they made. Fidelity to the Christian teaching on the sacredness and indissolubility of the marriage bond demands that the marriage be considered valid, unless there is sufficient proof to the contrary. Thus the burden of proof rests with the spouse who is challenging the validity of the marriage.

We here at St. Louise de Marillac parish can help you prepare a submission to the Los Angeles Archdiocesan Tribunal for an annulment of a marriage. The annulment process is lengthy and we want to help you discern the facts surrounding your previous marriage to allow you to prepare an honest and thorough case to the Tribunal. We will verify that you have collected all of the necessary documents to be submitted.

We will be here to journey with you as you prepare your case and offer what counseling and solace you may need during the process.

St. Louise de Marillac Catholic Church

1720 E. Covina Blvd
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(626) 915-7873



For more information or to begin the annulment process, please contact Fr. Emmanuel Francis at the Parish office or call:

626 915-7873 ext. 203 for an appointment.

*St. Louise de Marillac
Catholic Church*

Annulment Ministry



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Annulments in the Catholic Church

Christian Marriage and the Ministry of the Tribunal

Christian marriage is a sacrament, a sign of the unity of Christ and the Church. It is a holy covenant of life and love. It demands a mature commitment and decision to love from the partners, a response to the ever-present grace of God, and a daily self-sacrifice and reaffirmation of the commitment made on the wedding day. This calls for effort that is often heroic. For this reason, marriages do not always succeed.

A distressing aspect of our contemporary world is the high rate of divorce, and it is continuing to rise. At present in our country, nearly 50% of marriages end in divorce. Even among Catholics the statistics are not significantly different. Some estimate that there are several million Catholics who have suffered marriage failure and are struggling with its consequences.

The Church must be concerned about this tragic situation. As the public wedding ceremony attests, marriage is not just a private affair between a man and a woman. Both Church and State have an interest in the covenant of marriage made by two people. The human family is both the basic unit of society and the "Church in miniature,"

and therefore the entire community must be interested in and committed to its success, and concerned and supportive should a marriage for some reason fail.

Whenever there is a breakdown in domestic harmony, whenever children are deprived of a parent's love, whenever divorce and remarriage result in the exclusion of persons from full participation in its sacramental life, the Church is affected. For this reason the search for effective remedies continues without ceasing.

The Tribunal ministry is one part of the Church's effort to offer healing and hope for the victims of broken marriages. The Tribunal investigates cases of marital failure to determine whether parties in certain instances may be free to remarry. The Tribunal, under the direction of the Judicial Vicar, conducts trials and studies related to the validity of marriage, as well as other judicial proceedings that may arise under Church law.

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Who Needs an Annulment?

- If you married a baptized person and subsequently divorced that person and have remarried and you wish this marriage to be validated in the Catholic Church.
- If you, a Catholic, married a person in a non-Catholic church or a wedding chapel, divorced that person and have remarried and would now like to be married in the Catholic Church.
- If neither you nor your previous spouse was baptized, divorced that person and you have remarried a Catholic or you would like to become Catholic and would like your marriage to be validated by the Catholic Church.

What is the Cost?

There are many types of Annulments and the cost varies from \$100 to \$500 (fee set up by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.) However, we will not impose a financial hardship on anyone. No case will be turned down because of an inability to pay.