

PAULINE PRIVILEGE CASES - INSTRUCTIONS

1. The prospective convert must have a sincere desire to embrace the faith, and not merely marriage with a Catholic; he/she must understand the interpellations, and must agree to the Church making them in his/her name, and the priest must be personally convinced that the prospective convert is sincere in his/her reply that he/she will abide by the decision of the Church, which will depend, among other things, upon the answers given to the interpellations. This decision may be: an obligation to return to his/her proper spouse; an obligation to refrain from the new marriage; freedom to enter a new marriage, with a Catholic. If the priest is personally convinced that the prospective convert is sincere in every way, he may proceed with the instructions, but **the priest should not baptize the convert until this has been recommended by the tribunal.**

2. To petition for a decree, the following forms and documents should be submitted:
 - a) **Pauline Privilege Checklist of Documents.** Please fill out the checklist as you gather your information, and send in your forms and documents.

 - b) **General Questionnaires.** Fill out all information completely. There should be two signatures in each general questionnaire: that of the person who answered the questionnaire, and the assisting pastoral minister. Please use the parish seal.

 - c) **Proof of Marriage.** A copy of the civil marriage certificate and copy of the marriage license.

 - d) **Divorce Decree.** A final, signed and dated copy of the divorce decree.

 - e) **Witnesses.** Four (two for each side) signed witness statements should accompany the petition. They should be notarized by the assisting pastoral minister or public notary. Parents are good witnesses. If the parents are unavailable, the names and addresses of at least four witnesses (the best possible), indicating relationship, if any regarding the non-baptism of each party should be supplied.

PAULINE PRIVILEGE - CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS

PLEASE FILL IN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Petitioner _____

Maiden Name (if applicable) _____

Respondent _____

Maiden Name (if applicable) _____

Assisting Pastoral Minister _____

Parish _____

Address _____

ATTACH THE COMPLETED FORMS AND DOCUMENTS TO THIS CHECKLIST IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

- 1. Petition
- 2. General Questionnaires
- 3. Marriage certificate marriage date _____
- 4. Divorce decree final divorce date _____
- 5. Witness 1 name _____
- 6. Witness 2 name _____
- 7. Witness 3 name _____
- 8. Witness 4 name _____
- 9. Statement from pastor
- 10. Baptismal certificate of the proposed new Catholic spouse

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For Tribunal Use

Reviewed by: _____ Remarks: _____

Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

PETITION FOR PAULINE PRIVILEGE

I, _____ the undersigned Parish Priest of the
Church of _____ in _____ humbly
Petition Your Grace for the use of the Pauline Privilege in the marriage between the following:

1. **PETITIONER (the one who, at the time of the [the first] marriage was not baptised, and is now baptised or to be baptised)**

I, _____, promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

a. Name I.C. No:

b. Address

c. Date and place of birth

d. If unbaptised, give names of witnesses to non-baptism:

e. If baptised: Date of baptism:
Place of baptism:

f. Religion of Father: Religion of Mother:

g. For how long was he/she interested in the Church?

What are his/her motives for conversion to the Catholic Faith?

h. For how long was he/she under the instruction in the Catholic Faith?

i. Date and place of all the marriages and civil divorce/annulment:

j. Are you fulfilling all the natural obligations arising from the marriage and as imposed by the Civil Court?

II. **RESPONDENT (non-baptised spouse in the [first] marriage of Petitioner)**

a. Name: _____ I.C. No: _____

e. Address _____

f. Date and place of birth _____

g. If unbaptised, give names of witnesses to non-baptism:

e. Religion of Father: _____

Religion of Mother: _____

III **MARRIAGE IN QUESTION**

a. Date of marriage: _____

b. Place of marriage: _____

c. Date and place of divorce/annulment: _____

d. Grounds for divorce/annulment: _____

e. Children: _____

No.	Name	Age	Under custody of
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

IV. DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE

a. Reasons for Petitioner seeking dissolution of marriage:

b. Has the Respondent remarried? Yes/No

If yes, name of Partner: _____

Date of birth: _____

Place/date of marriage: _____

c. Degree of scandal (if marriage were dissolved, would many people be encouraged to think that the Church were relaxing the laws regarding the permanence of marriage)?

V. PROPOSED MARRIAGE

Name of Partner: _____

Date and place of birth: _____

Religion: _____

Has he/she been married before?

If yes, give details:

Signature of Petitioner

Signature of PASTOR

Date:

Place:

TESTIMONY 1

I, _____ I.C. No: _____

Residing at _____

Hereby testify that I have known

_____ (Name of Respondent) for
_____ years.

I am of the firm knowledge that he/she has not been baptised in any Church and neither has he/she expressed any interest in being baptised.

Furthermore, he/she is now remarried to/living with _____
and has no intention whatsoever of being reconciled to _____
(Name of Petitioner)

(Signature)

Dated this _____ day of _____ Year _____.

Relationship with Petitioner/Respondent : _____

Comments on trustworthiness of witness by Parish Pastor:

TESTIMONY II

I, _____ I.C. No: _____

Residing at _____

Hereby testify that I have known

_____ (Name of Respondent) for
_____ years.

I am of the firm knowledge that he/she has not been baptised in any Church and neither has he/she expressed any interest in being baptised.

Furthermore, he/she is now remarried to/living with _____
and has no intention whatsoever of being reconciled to _____
(Name of Petitioner)

(Signature)

Dated this _____ day of _____ Year _____.

Relationship with Petitioner/Respondent : _____

Comments on trustworthiness of witness by Parish Pastor:

(Parish Letterhead)

Pauline Privilege and the Marriage of

_____ and _____

AUTHORISATION TO CONTRACT MARRIAGE

Whereas _____, an unbaptised, was previously married to _____, also unbaptised, at the _____ on _____.

Whereas the said marriage ended in Civil Divorce on _____ at the High Court in _____ on _____ (and the other party _____ has remarried.)

Whereas _____ was baptised in the Catholic Church of _____ on _____.

Whereas the Interpellation of _____ was done according to Canon 1144/1. To both the questions put forth, the answer was in the negative

OR The interpellation had been dispensed with.

By virtue of the Pauline Privilege, the marriage of _____ and _____ is dissolved in favour of the faith by the very fact that a new marriage is contracted by the newly baptised party.

.....
Parish Priest

Dated this on _____ in,

Parish Chop