

Tribunal FIRST STEP Program for Annulments

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Cleveland will be presenting the First Step Program at four locations. This user-friendly program has successfully provided individuals with a simplified method for the initial presentation of an annulment case to the Tribunal. The program consists of two sessions. The first meeting will be a general overview of marriage as understood by the Catholic Church and an explanation of the Tribunal process. This meeting is also open to anyone who would be interested in deepening his/her knowledge of marriage in the Catholic Church and the annulment process. Individuals who would like to submit a case to the Tribunal using the First Step Program will be given the appropriate materials at the conclusion of the first meeting. Pre-registration for the first meeting is not necessary. Those wishing to submit an annulment case will complete the necessary materials and return to a second meeting -- an individual meeting by appointment only. Program will be presented at the following locations:

August 2011 through April 2012

St. Ambrose Parish, Brunswick

Tuesday, 16 August 2011, general meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, 13 September 2011, individual meetings by appointment only

Blessed Trinity Parish, Akron

Tuesday, 4 October 2011, general meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, 8 November 2011, individual meetings by appointment only

St. John Bosco Parish, Parma Hts

Tuesday, 17 January 2012, general meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, 21 February 2012, individual meetings by appointment only

St. Peter Parish, Lorain

Tuesday, 17 April 2012, general meeting, 7:00 P.M.

Tuesday, 15 May 2012, individual meetings by appointment only

What is the purpose of this workshop?

- To educate individuals regarding the Catholic teaching on marriage and requirements for a valid marriage as recognized by the Catholic Church.
- To educate individuals regarding the annulment process, including the various situations under which this may be necessary.
- To help those individuals who currently may be in an invalid marriage work toward validation of marriage within the Catholic Church.

What are the consequences for one who is in an invalid marriage?

- A person who is in an invalid marriage may not receive the sacraments of the Church (i.e. may not receive communion)
- A person who is in an invalid marriage may not act as a sponsor for baptism or confirmation (i.e. may not be a godparent)

Who should attend this workshop?

- Anyone interested in learning more about these topics.
- Those who believe they may not be in a valid marriage and wish to explore the process of working towards establishing a valid marriage in the Church.

Please Note: This workshop is offered as a way to reach out to those whose marriage, for whatever reason or circumstances, may not be valid in the Church. Even if it has been many years, all are invited and encouraged to attend and, hopefully, begin the process of re-establishing full communion within the sacramental life of the Church.

Please visit our website for additional information: www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal