



Prot. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

# DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG PAULINE PRIVILEGE PETITION

This form is to be used when two unbaptized parties marry and later, only one party becomes validly baptized or will soon be baptized. If the divorce occurred after the baptism, the baptized spouse must not have caused the breakup (cc. 1143-1147).

### PLEASE COMPLETE ON COMPUTER AND PRINT OUT

#### PETITIONER (You)

Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Last Name prior to this marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  H  W  C

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Present Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

City & State: \_\_\_\_\_

If convert to Catholicism, date of reception: \_\_\_\_\_

Church of reception: \_\_\_\_\_

City & State: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you currently enrolled in RCIA?**  Yes /  No

#### RESPONDENT (Your Former Spouse)

Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Last Name prior to this marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  H  W  C

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Present Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Church of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

City & State: \_\_\_\_\_

If convert to Catholicism, date of reception: \_\_\_\_\_

Church of reception: \_\_\_\_\_

City & State: \_\_\_\_\_

### MARRIAGE FOR WHICH YOU ARE PRESENTLY PETITIONING

Date of marriage(MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_ Place of marriage: \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of church, hall, house, park, beach, etc.)

City & State: \_\_\_\_\_

Officiant (check one):  Catholic Priest /  Deacon  Rabbi  Orthodox Priest

Minister → Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Civil Official → Title and name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children born of this marriage: \_\_\_\_ Who has custody of the children? \_\_\_\_\_

Are the provisions of the civil courts being observed?  Yes /  No

If No, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of final divorce decree(MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_ County & State of Final divorce decree: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT: It is and remains the policy of the Tribunal, since November 10, 1989, not to accept Petitions for a Declaration of Nullity of Marriage until at least one year has elapsed from the date the civil divorce was granted. When two or more marriages have been contracted, whether in or outside the Church, it is the policy of the Tribunal not to accept these Petitions until at least two years have elapsed from the date of the most recent divorce.**

Tribunal  
Diocese of St. Petersburg  
P. O. Box 40200  
St. Petersburg, FL 33743-0200  
727-341-6858  
[www.dosp.org/tribunal](http://www.dosp.org/tribunal)  
[tribunal@dosp.org](mailto:tribunal@dosp.org) v: 1-2025

1. Was this the first marriage for both parties?  Yes /  No If No, please complete for EACH PREVIOUS marriage (if necessary, please use an additional sheet of paper):

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S) OF PETITIONER

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE #1

With whom (FULL NAME): \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name prior to this marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion of other party: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of marriage(MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Where did the marriage take place?  Church (religion) \_\_\_\_\_  Civil  Other \_\_\_\_\_

How was it Terminated?  Death /  Divorce Date(MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Has this marriage been declared null by the Catholic Church?  Yes /  No

Protocol Number \_\_\_\_\_ Diocesan Marriage Tribunal \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a copy of the Declaration of Nullity.

Are the provisions of the civil courts relating to your former marriage and any offspring being met?  Yes /  No

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE #2

With whom (FULL NAME): \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name prior to this marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion of other party: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of marriage(MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Where did the marriage take place?  Church (religion) \_\_\_\_\_  Civil  Other \_\_\_\_\_

How was it Terminated?  Death /  Divorce Date(MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Has this marriage been declared null by the Catholic Church?  Yes /  No

Protocol Number \_\_\_\_\_ Diocesan Marriage Tribunal \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a copy of the Declaration of Nullity.

Are the provisions of the civil courts relating to your former marriage and any offspring being met?  Yes /  No

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S) OF RESPONDENT

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE #1

With whom (FULL NAME): \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name prior to this marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion of other party: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of marriage(MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Where did the marriage take place?  Church (religion) \_\_\_\_\_  Civil  Other \_\_\_\_\_

How was it Terminated?  Death /  Divorce Date(MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Has this marriage been declared null by the Catholic Church?  Yes /  No

Protocol Number \_\_\_\_\_ Diocesan Marriage Tribunal \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a copy of the Declaration of Nullity.

Are the provisions of the civil courts relating to your former marriage and any offspring being met?  Yes /  No

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE #2

With whom (FULL NAME): \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name prior to this marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion of other party: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of marriage(MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Where did the marriage take place?  Church (religion) \_\_\_\_\_  Civil  Other \_\_\_\_\_

How was it Terminated?  Death /  Divorce Date(MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Has this marriage been declared null by the Catholic Church?  Yes /  No

Protocol Number \_\_\_\_\_ Diocesan Marriage Tribunal \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a copy of the Declaration of Nullity.

Are the provisions of the civil courts relating to your former marriage and any offspring being met?  Yes /  No

2. Please complete the following for each subsequent marriage with the EXCEPTION of your PRESENT marriage. Information regarding your present marriage should be answered in the questions which follow. (If necessary, please use an additional sheet of paper):

SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE(S) OF PETITIONER

SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE #1

With whom (FULL NAME): Last Name prior to this marriage:

Religion of other party: Date of marriage(MM/DD/YYYY):

Where did the marriage take place? Church (religion) Civil Other

How was it Terminated? Death / Divorce Date(MM/DD/YYYY):

Has this marriage been declared null by the Catholic Church? Yes / No

Protocol Number Diocesan Marriage Tribunal

Please provide a copy of the Declaration of Nullity.

Are the provisions of the civil courts relating to your former marriage and any offspring being met? Yes / No

SUBSEQUENT MARRIAGE #2

With whom (FULL NAME): Last Name prior to this marriage:

Religion of other party: Date of marriage(MM/DD/YYYY):

Where did the marriage take place? Church (religion) Civil Other

How was it Terminated? Death / Divorce Date(MM/DD/YYYY):

Has this marriage been declared null by the Catholic Church? Yes / No

Protocol Number Diocesan Marriage Tribunal

Please provide a copy of the Declaration of Nullity.

Are the provisions of the civil courts relating to your former marriage and any offspring being met? Yes / No

3. Are you presently seriously dating engaged married?

With Whom (Full Name): Last Name at time of marriage:

Home Address: City, State, Zip:

Religion: Date of Birth(MM/DD/YYYY):

If Married:

Date of marriage(MM/DD/YYYY):

Officiant (check one): Catholic Priest / Deacon Rabbi Orthodox Priest

Minister -> Religion:

Civil Official -> Title and name:

Place of marriage: City & State: (name of church, hall, house, park, beach, etc.)

4. Is your present spouse/fiancé currently enrolled in RCIA? Yes / No

5. Has your present spouse/fiancé been married before? Yes / No If Yes, please complete the following (if necessary, please use an additional sheet of paper):

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE(S) OF CURRENT SPOUSE/FIANCÉ

PREVIOUS MARRIAGE #1

With whom (FULL NAME): Last Name prior to this marriage:

Religion of other party: Date of marriage(MM/DD/YYYY):

Where did the marriage take place? Church (religion) Civil Other

How was it Terminated? Death / Divorce Date(MM/DD/YYYY):

Has this marriage been declared null by the Catholic Church? Yes / No

Protocol Number Diocesan Marriage Tribunal

Please provide a copy of the Declaration of Nullity.

Are the provisions of the civil courts relating to your former marriage and any offspring being met? Yes / No

**PREVIOUS MARRIAGE #2**

With whom (FULL NAME): \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name prior to this marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion of other party: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of marriage(MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Where did the marriage take place?  Church (religion) \_\_\_\_\_  Civil  Other \_\_\_\_\_

How was it Terminated?  Death /  Divorce Date(MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

Has this marriage been declared null by the Catholic Church?  Yes /  No

Protocol Number \_\_\_\_\_ Diocesan Marriage Tribunal \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide a copy of the Declaration of Nullity.**

Are the provisions of the civil courts relating to your former marriage and any offspring being met?  Yes /  No

**Witnesses: If needed the Tribunal will contact your advocate regarding witnesses as to baptismal status.**

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY A DATE FOR A CATHOLIC WEDDING BE SET UNTIL A FINAL DECREE IS ISSUED.**

**AFFIRMATION AND REQUIRED SIGNATURE OF PETITIONER**

I, the undersigned Petitioner, do hereby pledge my word of honor and solemnly swear that, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing information given in completing the application is correct and true. I accept ownership and responsibility for my actions and/or attitudes that may have contributed to the dissolution of this union. Having grown through this experience, I am now prepared emotionally and spiritual to enter a valid Christian marriage in the Catholic Church. I hereby request that my petition for a dissolution of marriage on the basis of Pauline Privilege be accepted, that my case be processed, and that this privilege be granted to me.

**Sign Here**

**SIGNATURE of Petitioner (REQUIRED)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

**Digital Signature not accepted**

**AFFIRMATION AND REQUIRED SIGNATURE OF PRIEST/DEACON/ADVOCATE**

I, the undersigned, having reviewed the Petitioner's testimony and after a thorough discussion with the Petitioner, testify that:

- the Petitioner appears to have answered all questions honestly and thoroughly;
- the Petitioner appears to accept ownership and responsibility for his/her actions and/or faults that may have contributed to the dissolution of this union;
- the Petitioner appears to have learned from the mistakes of the past and appears likewise to have matured significantly since the time of the failed marriage;
- the Petitioner appears to have satisfactorily resolved any and all significant emotional conflicts arising from this marriage;
- I am morally certain that the Petitioner is now prepared emotionally and spiritually to enter a valid Christian marriage in the Catholic Church.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Therefore, I heartily recommend that a dissolution of the bond of marriage be granted for the salvation of souls. The Petitioner appears to have answered all questions honestly and thoroughly and is now prepared emotionally and spiritually to enter a valid Christian marriage in the Catholic Church.

**Sign Here**

**SIGNATURE of Priest/Deacon/Advocate (REQUIRED)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

**Digital Signature not accepted**

Printed/Typed Name of Priest/Advocate \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

**Required Documents enclosed (please check the list):**

- Marriage license/certificate for the marriage to be dissolved.
- Final Divorce Decree for the marriage to be dissolved.
- If a party is already baptized, a **recent** copy of the baptismal certificate (showing all notations).
- The baptismal certificate of the Petitioner's intended spouse (if that person is baptized).
- If the Petitioner has been divorced more than once, the answers to the twenty-five questions.

**COURTSHIP/ENGAGEMENT/MARRIAGE – Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper. They are to be reviewed by the priest/deacon. The primary purpose of these questions is to be a pastoral aid in bringing closure to the marriage in question. If you have been divorced once, the answers need not be sent to the Tribunal. If you have been divorced more than once, please forward the answers to the Tribunal.**

**A SIMPLE “YES” OR “NO” IS NOT SUFFICIENT.**

1. When did you become acquainted with your former spouse? How often did you date after meeting?
2. When did you decide to marry and how old were you? Were you both enthused about the idea of marriage? How long were you engaged?
3. Was your engagement ever broken? Were there any special problems during the courtship/engagement or the days prior to the wedding?
4. Did you have any doubts about the marriage or did anyone advise against the marriage?
5. Was your former spouse baptized or unbaptized? If unbaptized, please explain how you know this for a fact?
6. Were there any unusual conflicts on the wedding day or honeymoon?
7. Was the marriage entered into with mutual love or would you or others characterize the relationship as one of infatuation?
8. Was the marriage contracted freely? If there was any force or fear or ultimatum given, please explain.
9. Immediately after the wedding and/or during the marriage were there any special problems experienced in your sexual relations with each other?
10. Did you both enter this marriage intending to have children?
11. If children were born, were they wanted by both of you? Were you and your former spouse both responsible and nurturing parents during the marriage? What is your relationship with your children at present?
12. Did you and your former spouse intend a permanent union binding until death or did one or both of you enter this union with the notion that divorce could be an option?
13. Did either of you believe that infidelity, physical abuse, drugs, lack of love, etc., would dissolve the bond of marriage, freeing that person to marry?
14. In entering this marriage did both of you intend to be faithful to each other for life? Were both of you, in fact, faithful to each other? If not, please explain.
15. How well were you and your former spouse able to communicate? Were you able to share your needs, desires, dreams, anxieties, vulnerabilities? How did you handle disagreements? Please explain.
16. Did the use or abuse of alcohol or drugs affect this marriage? If yes, please explain.
17. When and over what did problems first arise in the marriage?
18. What were your main complaints regarding your former spouse as a spouse and a parent?
19. What was his/her complaints regarding you as a spouse and a parent?
20. When and over what did separations occur in this marriage? When and why did the final separation take place?
21. Describe your former spouse’s maturity and emotional stability at the time of the marriage and during the years that followed.
22. Describe your own maturity and emotional stability at the time of the marriage and during the years that followed.
23. As you look back at the time of your marriage, would you say that you exercised good judgement in entering this union? Please explain.
24. With 20/20 hindsight, is there anything you would have done differently which might have preserved this marriage?
25. As you are presently contemplating a new marriage within the Catholic Church, how is your present relationship with your intended spouse different from your relationship with your former spouse?