

MEMO

December 2021

TO: All Priests and Deacons

FROM: Very Rev. John D. Byrnes, JCL, Judicial Vicar
Mrs. Teresa Stayer, Chancellor

RE: Matrimonial Dispensation requests in the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

1. Ages of contracting parties must appear on all requests.
2. **Mixed Religion** applies only to Orthodox, baptized Episcopalians, and Lutherans.
Mixed Religion et ad cautelam Disparity of Cult for all other baptized non-Catholics.
Disparity of Cult applies only to unbaptized non-Catholics
3. The non-Catholic's baptismal record or details at hand relative to sect, place, date must be included.
4. In cases of convalidation:
 - A. Marriage certificate or information concerning attempted marriage - date, place, type of official must be included.
 - B. Maiden name of woman should be used.
5. Certification of death of former spouse(s) should be presented.
6. Canonical reasons must be stated on all forms (See back of MEMO).
7. All requests for Dispensations from the Canonical Form of Marriage should include:
 - A. Reasons advanced by the parties for the request.
 - B. Were prudent efforts made to counsel a Catholic ceremony?
 - C. Observations pertaining to the religious attitudes of the non-Catholic.
 - D. Catholic's religious practice.
8. Marriages of persons outside their parish limits must have proper Pastor's written permission.
9. As a matter of policy, the Bishops of Pennsylvania have agreed that marriages between two baptized persons are to take place in a Church.
10. The impediment of Crimen (causing the death of a previous spouse) is reserved to the Holy See.

CANONICAL REASONS

Sufficient in themselves:

1. Promise of embracing Catholic Religion
2. Firm hope of conversion on the part of the non-Catholic
3. Dangerous familiarity
4. Fear of Civil Marriage or before a Minister
5. Danger of Apostasy if a dispensation is denied
6. Remove grave scandal
7. Pregnancy and legitimization of children
8. Convalidation

IMPORTANT Marriage Dispensations/Permission requests are sent to:

Mrs. Teresa Stayer, Chancellor tstayer@dioceseaj.org
Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown
2713 W.Chestnut Avenue
Altoona, PA 16601

This MEMO, and all dispensation/permission forms are available on the diocesan website

dioceseaj.org

Go to - Offices and Ministries, Pastoral Center Offices, Chancellor