

## **Bulletin Announcements for the Diocese of Winona-Rochester Tribunal**

### **Bulletin Insert 1**

Do you or does someone you know have questions about the nullity process. The Diocese of Winona-Rochester Marriage Tribunal may be able to help. We can be reached by phone, (507) 454-4643, or e-mail, [tribunal@dow.org](mailto:tribunal@dow.org), and are more than willing to answer any questions about the process itself, any fees that may be involved, or simply how to begin a case.

### **Bulletin Insert 2**

Are you or someone you know wondering about the time and cost of the nullity process? Funds received by the Annual Ministry Appeal and other generous donors enable this process to be free of charge. Depending upon the circumstances, most cases are completed with ten to eighteen months. Please contact the Diocese of Winona-Rochester Marriage Tribunal by phone, (507) 454-4643 or e-mail, [tribunal@dow.org](mailto:tribunal@dow.org), if you have further questions or would like more information on how to begin the process.

### **Bulletin Insert 3**

Are you considering petitioning for an annulment or have questions about the annulment process? Please do not hesitate to contact your pastor or the Diocese of Winona-Rochester Tribunal. We can be reached by phone at (507) 454-4643 or e-mail at [tribunal@dow.org](mailto:tribunal@dow.org).

### **Bulletin Insert 4**

The Diocese of Winona Marriage-Rochester Tribunal invites people with questions or concerns about the annulment process to contact the Tribunal Office. It is our desire to assist anyone who seeks additional information or guidance in how to begin the process. We can be reached by phone at (507) 454-4643 or by e-mail at [tribunal@dow.org](mailto:tribunal@dow.org).

## **Bulletin Announcements for the Diocese of Winona-Rochester Tribunal**

**MYTH:** Annulments are expensive and time consuming.

**TRUTH:** Funds received by the generous supporters of the Annual Ministry Appeal and other donors enable the process to be free. While documentary cases requires less than one month, cases requiring an examination are completed within ten to eighteen months.

For more answers or direction for a possible annulment, contact the DOW-R Marriage Tribunal by phone (507) 454-4643 or e-mail [tribunal@dow.org](mailto:tribunal@dow.org).

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**MYTH:** My previous spouse needs to cooperate in the annulment process.

**TRUTH:** While the cooperation of the previous spouse will provide the Tribunal greater clarity and insights, the grant of an annulment is not conditioned on his/her cooperation.

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**MYTH:** An annulment renders the children of a marriage illegitimate.

**TRUTH:** Both parties exchanged consent with the best of intentions. An annulment has no civil effects and it does not change the status or “legitimacy” of children in any way.

For more answers or direction for a possible annulment, contact the DOW-R Marriage Tribunal by phone (507) 454-4643 or e-mail [tribunal@dow.org](mailto:tribunal@dow.org).

**MYTH:** I am excommunicated from the Church and unable to receive communion because I am divorced.

**TRUTH:** Divorce does not result in excommunicated from the Church. There is nothing in divorce itself that prevents a divorced Catholic from receiving the Eucharist and the Sacraments of Penance and Anointing of the Sick. Persons who attempt a subsequent marriage, however, are to refrain from receiving the Eucharist.

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**MYTH:** Couples married for many years cannot receive a divorce.

**TRUTH:** Couples stay together for many years due to children, social or family pressure or business. Though they have struggled mightily, they have probably not been living a community of love. It is possible for long-term marriages to be declared null because merely staying together is different than the establishment of a true partnership.

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