

Marriage Preparation Frequently Asked Questions



←—————→

1. Do I need to get married in a civil ceremony in Texas **BEFORE** I can get married in the Catholic Church?

NO, you do not. Mexico and some other countries and states DO require this, but Texas permits clergy persons/priests to officiate at church weddings as authorized officials of the State.

2. Is it absolutely required that I be confirmed in the Catholic faith before I can get married in the Catholic Church?

NO, it is not. However, the Diocese of Austin highly encourages individuals to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation prior to entering into a Catholic marriage.

3. I am Catholic and I want to get married in the Catholic Church, does my former **CIVIL MARRIAGE** (i.e. marriages by a minister, JP, Municipal Judge or Common Law) affect whether or not I can get married in the church?

YES, it does. All marriages “count.” Therefore, if either party has any previously “I Do’s”, the former civil marriage will need to be acknowledged, addressed and resolved before continuing with the marriage preparation classes.

4. I am Catholic but my future spouse is not; can we still get married in the Catholic Church?

YES, you can! So long as one party is baptized Catholic, the sacrament of marriage can be celebrated in the Catholic Church.

5. I am Catholic and I married my spouse in a Civil ceremony, is my marriage valid in the eyes of the Catholic Church?

NO, it is not. However, should you desire to have your marriage recognized by the Church, there is a process that can be completed to allow your marriage to be formally 'validated' or 'convalidated' in the Catholic Church.

6. I want to get married in the Catholic Church as soon as possible, outside of the standard marriage preparation that needs to be completed, what else might slow down the process for getting married in the Church?

- ✓ Previous marriages of any type
- ✓ Difficulties or delays obtaining the required sacramental records
- ✓ Desire to have wedding celebrated in another Diocese, State, or Country. (marriage packets must be completed at least three months prior to the actual wedding date).

For more information or clarification about these or other Catholic marriage guidelines, please contact the St. Ignatius Martyr Marriage Preparation Coordinator at (512) 442-3602.

