

## FUN QUIZ FOR ADULTS

June 7, 2020

The Sacrament of Marriage

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*(Scroll down to pages 2 and 3 for the correct answers)*

1. The Church teaches that Catholics should marry in a Church building or Chapel unless there is a specific serious reason for marrying elsewhere.
2. A Catholic cannot place conditions on his/her marriage consent.
3. The Catholic Church does not recognize the validity of marriages of non-Catholics when they wed in their own Church or before the Justice of the Peace.
4. Pressure on the couple to marry from society, families, a pregnancy or even from the Parish Priest or Deacon renders the marriage invalid in the Catholic Church.
5. Except for good reasons, Catholics must be married in the presence of a Catholic Priest, Bishop or Deacon and 2 witnesses for the Church to recognize its validity.
6. If a Catholic marries a non-Catholic person in the Church, he/she is not allowed to have a Wedding Mass but just a Liturgy of the Word and a Wedding Ceremony.
7. Cases to annul marriages in the Catholic Church usually take many years to be resolved and cost thousands of dollars.
8. Couples can only be married legally in Ontario if they procure a marriage license.
9. The Catholic Church does not recognize divorces granted by the courts.
10. Catholics who are divorced are excommunicated from the Church and forbidden to receive Holy Communion.
11. A Catholic cannot be validly married in the Catholic Church if he/she excludes the vow of fidelity.
12. A person must first be baptized in order to marry a Catholic in the Catholic Church.
13. Gross immaturity, deceit and all forms of abusive behaviour can be used as grounds to annul a marriage in the Catholic Church.
14. Non-Catholics must convert to the Catholic Faith before they are allowed to marry a Catholic in the Catholic Church.
15. Bishops, Priests and Deacons can legally perform marriages anywhere in Canada.
16. The Church teaches that couples must marry in the bride's Church.

## THE CORRECT ANSWERS TO OUR QUIZ ON MARRIAGE

1. **TRUE** The Church teaches this to remind the couple and their guests that marriage is a sacred spiritual celebration and not just a secular observance. The Bishop can give permission for Catholic marriages to take place outside a church or chapel if the issue causes disagreements or friction in families or between the future bride and groom, or for other serious reasons.
2. **TRUE** If it can later be proven that conditions had been secretly placed by the bride or groom on each other, then the marriage is declared invalid and a declaration of nullity is issued. One example of a condition would be: *"I am marrying this person because he/she will one day inherit much money from their family"*. Of course, most of the time these conditions are not disclosed before the wedding and are purposely kept from the other party. They are only discovered and proven to be true after the wedding by the Marriage Tribunal.
3. **FALSE** The Church's law about the obligation to marry in a Catholic Church or Chapel only applies to Catholics and not to other denominations. Therefore when non-Catholics marry either in their own Church or before the Justice of the Peace, the Catholic Church recognizes the validity of their marriage unless proven otherwise.
4. **TRUE** If consent to marry was given because of external pressure from anyone or from any circumstance, then the marriage is later declared null by the Church.
5. **TRUE** Three examples among many good reasons would be:
  1. the non-Catholic's relative is a clergyman in another denomination and wishes to officiate at the wedding in his/her Church;
  2. the Catholic never practices his/her Faith whereas the non-Catholic does;
  3. for their own personal reasons, the non-Catholic family members refuse to enter a Christian Church building for the wedding, (i.e. Orthodox Jews).
6. **FALSE** This was true in the past but is no longer the case today.
7. **FALSE** Most nullity cases in the Diocese of Thunder Bay today take only 4 or 5 months to be resolved depending on the presence of nullity grounds and the willingness of witnesses to testify. Although Declarations of Nullity cannot be bought or sold, the cost to process each case costs the Diocese about \$2,400. (this includes salaries for secretaries, psychological assessment reports, etc.). To help defray these processing costs, those who receive annulments are asked to donate (*if they can*), a small portion of that amount.

8. **FALSE** To marry legally in Ontario couples can be married either by license or by MARRIAGE BANNNS forms. These forms are supplied freely to couples who are eligible to be married in this way. To be married legally by BANNNS in Ontario, these three following requirements must all be present:
- the future bride and groom both live in Ontario;
  - both parties are single and have never married before;
  - both parties belong to the same Religious Denomination (Roman Catholic)
- Once it is determined that these requirements are present, then the proposed marriage must be publicly announced before the wedding (usually in a Parish Bulletin or website). Then, the completed BANNNS form is signed by the couple at the wedding and, just like a marriage license, the signed portion of it is sent to the Registrar General of Ontario for the registration of the marriage.
9. **TRUE** The Church teaches that the civil courts have no jurisdiction over the validity of Sacraments and Marriage is a Sacrament. Therefore it is a matter that is spiritual and sacred. To believe otherwise would be to accept the notion that the courts should have the power to annul other sacred Rites and Sacraments like Christian Baptisms or Confirmations or Holy Orders!
10. **FALSE** Although this was true over 60 years ago, divorced individuals are no longer excommunicated from the Church. They are also not forbidden to receive Holy Communion unless they are currently living in a second marital union that is not recognized as a valid marriage by the Church.
11. **TRUE** If he/she does secretly exclude this vow in order to marry in the Church, then the marriage is still declared null and void once this is discovered.
12. **FALSE** A non baptized person is free to marry a Catholic in the Catholic Church.
13. **TRUE** These are three actual grounds that are most often used by Church Tribunals to declare a marriage null and void in the eyes of the Church.
14. **FALSE** This is absolutely false but many Catholics still think this is a requirement.
15. **FALSE** Civilly speaking, Marriage is a Provincial matter and therefore clergy can only perform marriages legally in the Province in which they live. To validly officiate at a marriage in another province (*say of a nephew or niece who lives in B.C. or Quebec*) requires a specific permit from that Province.
16. **FALSE** This was never a Church Law but more of wedding tradition in many cultures and in some countries and it is therefore not required.