

## 'TEST YOUR FAITH' QUIZ FOR ADULT

August 16, 2020

**"WEDDINGS, DIVORCE & ANNULMENTS"**

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

### WEDDINGS

- T  F 1. A Catholic Wedding can either be a Wedding Mass or a Wedding Ceremony.
- T  F 2. It is not permitted in Ontario to have more than two official witnesses (best man and maid of honour) at the same wedding?
- T  F 3. Secular music is not allowed during a Wedding in the Catholic church building.
- T  F 4. After the wedding in the Church, the couple signs the Church Register only.
- T  F 5. It is normally obligatory for a couple to take part in a Marriage Preparation course before their Catholic wedding.

### DIVORCE

- T  F 6. People who are divorced either did not take their commitment seriously or did not try hard enough to make their marriage work.
- T  F 7. The Church does not recognize the validity of a divorce granted by the Courts.
- T  F 8. Catholics who are divorced cannot receive Confession or Holy Communion.
- T  F 9. Divorced Catholics are not permitted to have a Mass at their Funeral.

### ANNULMENTS

- T  F 10. The Church cannot declare a marriage null and void if the couple has children and has been married for more than 25 years.
- T  F 11. Both parties in a marriage must ask for the annulment process to begin.
- T  F 12. Either party to the marriage can stop the nullity process from continuing.
- T  F 13. Pressure on either party to marry (*from a pregnancy, or from the future bride or groom or the parents of either, or even from a priest*) is grounds for nullity.
- T  F 14. A couple's children become illegitimate when their marriage is annulled.
- T  F 15. An annulment is just another name for a "Catholic Divorce".

## CORRECT ANSWERS TO OUR QUIZ

### WEDDINGS

- 1. TRUE** The decision is entirely up to the couple that is getting married. The vows and the exchange of rings is the actual marriage ceremony and must always be part of the wedding, whether it takes place in the context of a Mass or of a Ceremony only.
- 2. TRUE** In Ontario, only two must be designated as official witnesses and only these two are permitted to co-sign the marriage license and certificate together with the bride and groom and with the officiating priest or deacon.
- 3. TRUE** Music and songs must be used at times and/or places appropriate to their themes and style. For instance, couples do not normally choose to dance to the "Ave Maria" at their wedding reception, nor would one insist on a Bach Symphony to be played at a rock concert. In both cases they just don't fit. In the same way, secular music or secular themes may be beautiful but they just don't fit in a Church Mass or Ceremony of Marriage. Songs should be addressed to God in the sacred space which we call a church and not in praise of the couple's love or of each other. These secular choices can be played at the reception because the banquet hall is not a sacred space.
- 4. FALSE** Yes, the Church Register is signed but what is most important, is the signing of the Marriage License or Bann Form as well as the Marriage Certificate which is a part of it. This Marriage Certificate is given to the couple but the signed license or bann form portion is sent to the Registrar General of Ontario so that the marriage can be recorded and officially registered with with the Province.
- 5. TRUE** Most denominations also require attendance at such a course because we realize how important this preparation is for married life. It seems strange that proper training and mandatory testing are required in Ontario to acquire a driver's license but neither is required for marriage, which involves a much more serious commitment.

### DIVORCE

- 6. FALSE** It is a common misconception among some people that those who divorce did not try hard enough to keep their marriage together. In most cases of marriage breakdown, separation and divorce are the last resort that troubled couples turn to when everything possible has been tried, including marriage counselling and therapy, but nothing seems to work. The couple is just as sorry to see their relationship fail as are the family members and friends who know them.
- 7. TRUE** Catholics believe that Marriage is both a legal contract as well as a life-long Sacrament, which one receives. Therefore, we know that Civil law or Civil courts do not have the authority to take this Sacrament away, just like they have no authority to take away one's Sacrament of Baptism or one's Ordination to the Priesthood. These religious matters do not fall under civil jurisdiction as far as the Church is concerned.

8. **FALSE** Catholics who divorce can continue to receive both Confession and Holy Communion. Only divorced Catholics who have re-married outside the Church, without an annulment from their first marriage are discouraged from receiving Communion until they get this second marriage blessed and validated by the Church after an annulment of the first is granted by Church courts.
9. **FALSE** This may have been the case in the distant past but it is certainly not the case today. The issue is not considered or even mentioned when one is preparing for the Funeral of a loved one or friend. **ANNULMENTS**
10. **FALSE** Annulments are not conditioned on the duration of a marriage nor on the fact that the couple had or did not have children. Instead it is a declaration based on the proofs that, at the time that the vows were exchanged, some essential element of marriage was missing and that it eventually rendered the vows null and void.
11. **FALSE** Usually one party in the couple requests the procedure to begin, although the other party must be informed that this request has been made, (if the whereabouts of the other party is known).
12. **FALSE** Only the person who requests the procedure is free to stop the process at any time but the other party cannot, under any circumstances.
13. **TRUE** Marriage must be entered into by both parties, freely and without pressure of any kind. If it is proven later that some form of pressure actually existed when the vows were exchanged (even if this was not necessarily known by others at the time), then the marriage is still declared invalid from the very beginning.
14. **FALSE** In regular court cases in Canada, the accused is considered innocent until proven guilty. The same applies in a Church Annulment case; the Church considers a marriage valid until proven invalid. Therefore, since the children were born during this time of presumed validity, their legitimacy is not affected in any way if an annulment of the marriage is granted by the Church court later on.
15. **FALSE** There is a big difference between a divorce and an annulment.  
A divorce is a declaration made by a civil court that a marriage no longer exists, regardless as to whether it validly existed or not and that the parties are now free within a certain Province or Country to marry again.  
An annulment is a declaration made by a Church court that it has been proven that the marriage was never a true and valid marriage in the first place because an essential element required for Catholic marriage was missing when the couple declared their vows. Once this is proven, either party is free to marry in the Church once again.