

FORM M-C

DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE  
P. O. BOX 4004  
LA CROSSE, WI 54602-4004

**FORM FOR INVALID MARRIAGES**

due to:

- a Defect in the Form (e.g. lack of proper delegation, only one witness, etc.)
- a Lack of Form (a marriage of a Catholic before a civil official or non-Catholic minister without legitimate dispensation.)
- a Ligamen (the Respondent is bound by a previous valid marriage bond.)

Most Reverend Bishop:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ a Catholic/non-Catholic  
 petition for an official recognition of invalidity of my former marriage with  
 \_\_\_\_\_ a Catholic/non Catholic  
 on the basis of \_\_\_\_\_

The ceremony took place in the presence of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (civil official/minister)

on \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Site) (City) (State)

This marriage was civilly dissolved by divorce/annulment in \_\_\_\_\_  
 County, State of \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_.

**OATH:** (Priest, Deacon or Pastoral Associate should explain the nature of the oath and then ask:)  
Do you swear to tell the truth in answer to the following questions? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of forthcoming marriage/convalidation: \_\_\_\_\_

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**PETITIONER**

Current Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home & Work) \_\_\_\_\_

(If Woman) Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived in the Diocese of La Crosse? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you intend to leave the Diocese of La Crosse? \_\_\_\_\_

Religion \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Church and City of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If Catholic  
First Communion: When \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation: When \_\_\_\_\_

Where \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**RESPONDENT**

Current Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home & Work) \_\_\_\_\_

(If Woman) Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date & Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived in the Diocese of La Crosse? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you intend to leave the Diocese of La Crosse? \_\_\_\_\_

Religion \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Church and City of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If Catholic  
First Communion: When \_\_\_\_\_

Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation: When \_\_\_\_\_

Where \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: Name and Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In what parish are you, if Catholic, and/or your fiancée or present spouse registered as members? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If not registered in a parish, to what extent are you, if Catholic, and/or your fiancée or present spouse practicing the Catholic faith (attendance at Sunday Mass, raising children Catholic, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**MARITAL INFORMATION**

1. Date of Marriage to the Respondent \_\_\_\_\_
2. Place of Marriage to the Respondent: Church or other: \_\_\_\_\_  
City and State: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Was this the first marriage for each of you? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, please list former marriages for yourself and Respondent. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. If you were previously married, did either of you ever receive a Church annulment of a former marriage? If so, give full names of both parties, date, and the name of the diocese where the annulment was granted. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Date of final separation: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Date of divorce or civil annulment: \_\_\_\_\_ County and State where granted: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Who was the petitioner? \_\_\_\_\_
7. After the divorce from the Respondent, did you enter another marriage? \_\_\_\_\_  
Give the following for each subsequent marriage:  

<u>Name of Spouse</u>	<u>Religion</u>	<u>Place of Marriage</u>	<u>Date</u>
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8. Was this person(s) previously married? \_\_\_\_\_ If so please explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. If you have not remarried, are you keeping company with anyone with a view to marriage? \_\_\_\_\_  
If yes: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Religion \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Was this person previously married? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, explain and indicate whether or not this person's first spouse is living or deceased. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Has the Respondent entered another marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, give name of new spouse, date and place of marriage  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Was a special dispensation issued by the Catholic Church to allow you to marry this person before a non-Catholic minister or civil official? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what diocese issued the dispensation? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Was your marriage with this person ever subsequently validated according to the marriage laws of the Catholic Church?  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. Did the Catholic party ever **FORMALLY** leave the Catholic faith (i.e., receive a new baptism, make a profession of faith, or give formal allegiance to any non-Catholic Church, sect of denomination)? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, please explain and give date this occurred. \_\_\_\_\_
14. It may be necessary that we contact your former spouse. Do you have any objection to this contact? \_\_\_\_\_

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Date

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Signature of Petitioner

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Place

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Signature of Interviewer

**INTERVIEWER'S EVALUATION AND REMARKS:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am personally acquainted with the petitioner and testify to his/her credibility.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not that well acquainted with the Petitioner.

Please add any further comments about this marriage, the Petitioner, and this testimony.

**PLEASE SUPPLY THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:**

-Petitioner's recent Catholic baptismal certificate, including notations regarding First Communion and Confirmation (*If Petitioner is Catholic*)

-Respondent's recent Catholic baptismal certificate, including notations regarding First Communion and Confirmation (*If Respondent is Catholic*)

-Civil Marriage Certificate of marriage in question

-Judgment of Divorce for marriage in question

-If the Petitioner or Respondent was married or divorced prior to the marriage in question, please provide Civil Certificate for prior marriage(s) and Judgment of prior divorce(s).

-If the Petitioner or Respondent formally left the Catholic Faith, do any documents, certificates, or witnesses exist that could prove the Catholic became a member of another church, sect, or denomination prior to this marriage?

\_\_\_\_\_ Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes/No

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Case Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Petitioner-Respondent)

SUPPORTING WITNESS

Party to be interviewed:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PETITIONER \_\_\_\_\_

1. Having God as you witness, do you solemnly swear to tell the truth in answer to the following questions? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is your full name? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is your relationship to the petitioner named above? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How long have you known this person? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many times has the petitioner named above been married? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Was the marriage of the petitioner to \_\_\_\_\_ witnessed by a priest, a minister, or a civil official? \_\_\_\_\_ How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Was a special dispensation issued by the Catholic Church for this marriage so that it could take place before a minister or civil official? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Was this marriage ever validated according to the laws of the Catholic Church? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you feel that you would have known about it if the marriage had been validated? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parish

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interviewer