
QUESTIONS I WOULD BE TOO EMBARRASSED TO ASK

IF I AM DIVORCED, CAN I RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION?

Divorce does not mean one can no longer receive Holy Communion. A Catholic is barred from receiving Communion only if he or she goes on to remarry after a divorce, while their previous spouse is still living, and no annulment has been granted in regards to a prior marriage.

CAN I GET REMARRIED?

A Catholic who is divorced cannot validly marry anyone, anywhere, except if they have petitioned for and been granted an annulment of the previous marriage. If the annulment is granted, then that Catholic would be free to marry. If a divorced Catholic remarries, either civilly or in the church of another faith, and his or her previous spouse is still living, he or she cannot worthily receive Communion, and any attempt to do so would be considered a sacrilege.

CAN I MARRY SOMEONE FROM ANOTHER DENOMINATION WHO IS DIVORCED?

The Catholic Church recognizes the marriages of other religious denominations. Therefore, a marriage between two Lutherans in the Lutheran church or two Baptists in the Baptist church is viewed as valid. However, a Catholic cannot marry a divorced non-Catholic without placing themselves in a state of sin and therefore be unable to receive Communion. The divorced non-Catholic may petition a Catholic Matrimonial Tribunal for a possible annulment of his or her previous marriage. If the annulment is granted, the Catholic would be free to marry the non-Catholic.