

## **What is a convalidation?**

A **convalidation** is a complete wedding, less the signing of the civil documents. It joins the two of you in a lifelong marriage in the presence of God and the church community. It is commonly described as "having a marriage blessed by the Church." A convalidation, however is much more than a blessing. It is a necessary corrective step before a marriage, though civilly legal, can be recognized as valid by the Church. A convalidation requires the renewal of matrimonial consent before a Catholic priest or deacon.

A convalidation recognizes the fact that you are already in a civil marriage. You have made commitments to each other and now wish to take your marriage to a higher level by making it sacramental. The Rite used for the Convalidation is the same Rite used for marriage. During the preparation process we want to make sure you understand the commitments you are making before God and the expectations for living in a sacramental marriage. We do not have the gifts of Jesus Christ, so we cannot look into your hearts. Therefore, we are required to rely on external means to determine if you are sincere in you desired to be married in accordance with the laws of God and his church. One of those external means is your enthusiastic participation in the preparation process.

There are no Church required costs associated with a convalidation.