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V. Some Common Reasons for Requesting Permissions or Dispensations

- A. Just and reasonable causes for requesting a permission for **mixed religion** are either sufficient or insufficient in themselves.
1. Causes sufficient in themselves are the following:
 - a. The non-Catholic promises to become a Catholic.
 - b. There is a well-founded hope that the non-Catholic will become Catholic.
 - c. There is a real danger that the couple will marry outside the Church invalidly.
 - d. The couple desires that their unborn child be born legitimate.
 - e. The couple desires that their marriage attempted outside of the Church be validated.
 - f. The marriage is for the spiritual good of the couple.
 - g. The marriage within the Church will remove scandal.
 2. Causes insufficient in themselves, but supplementary, are the following:
 - a. The bride is of advanced age.
 - b. One of the parties is a widow/widower with children.
 - c. The plans for the marriage are widely known.
- B. A dispensation is a relaxation of the obligation of the law when there is a just and reasonable cause.
- C. The Catholic party in a mixed marriage or disparity of cult marriage has a right to petition his or her local ordinary for a dispensation from canonical form; if granted, the marriage may take place validly before a non-Catholic minister or civil official (The Code of Canon Law: A Text and Commentary, p. 805).
1. A dispensation from **Canonical Form** is to be given only by the local Ordinary of the Catholic party and will not be given for a marriage before a Justice of Peace unless the non-Catholic party is non-Christian.

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2. Just and reasonable causes for requesting a dispensation from canonical form are the following:
 - a. Marriage before a non-Catholic minister will achieve family harmony or will avoid family alienation.
 - b. There is a significant relationship/friendship with non-Catholic minister.
 - c. The non-Catholic church where the marriage will occur is of special import to the non-Catholic party.
 - d. There is a strong tradition in this country of having marriage in the church of the bride.