Office Use Only	Date Rec'd:
Case Name:	
Case #:	



REQUEST FOR A DISSOLUTION OF THE BOND IN FAVOR OF THE FAITH

 $D_{\text{IOCESE}} \ \text{OF MADISON-TRIBUNAL} \cdot 702 \ S. \ High \ Point \ Road, \ Suite \ 225 \cdot Madison, \ WI \ 53719-4926 \cdot 608-821-3060 \cdot tribunal@madisondiocese.org$

This form must be filled out completely (please print or type), including information regarding the other party. If the other party is truly impossible to locate, please attach a record of your attempts at locating him/her.			
PETITIONER (YOU)	OTHER PARTY		
Current name:	Current name:		
Maiden name (if applicable):	Maiden name (if applicable):		
Present address:	Present address:		
City: Zip: Zip:	City: State: Zip:		
Telephone:	Telephone:		
E-mail:	E-mail:		
Date of birth: City:	Date of birth: City:		
Baptized? Yes No If so, date:	Baptized? Yes No If so, date:		
Church of baptism:	Church of baptism:		
City: Zip: Zip:	City: Zip:		
Age at time of marriage:	Age at time of marriage:		
Your religion at time of marriage:	His/her religion at time of marriage:		
Your religion currently:	His/her religion currently:		
CONCERNING TH	E RELATIONSHIP		
Date when courtship began:	Length of courtship prior to engagement:		
Date of engagement:	Length of engagement prior to marriage:		
	Length of marriage prior to divorce:		
Church or place of marriage:			
Address of church or place of marriage:			
City:			
Minister or officiant of marriage: Denomination (if applicable):			
If a civil marriage, was it ever "blessed" / "validated" in the Catholic Church? Yes No If so, where:			
Date of separation: Date of divorce:	County, state of divorce:		

CHILDREN BORN OF THIS MARRIAGE				
Name:	Date of birth:			
Name:	Date of birth:			
Name:	Date of birth:			
Name: Date of birth: Please attach additional sheets as needed. A dissolution of the marriage bond does not make children who were born during the marriage illegitimate.				
Have you or the other party ever petitioned for a declaration of nullity of this marriage before any ecclesiastical tribunal? Yes No If so, where:				
INFORMATION REGARDING OTHER MARRIAGES Was this the first marriage for both of you? \[\subseteq Yes \subseteq No				
Please indicate any other marriages contracted by either party, whether before or after the marriage in question. If more space is needed, please include those marriages on a separate sheet.				
□ PETITIONER □ OTHER PARTY				
Spouse:	Check all that apply below:			
Religion of spouse:	☐ If Catholic decree of nullity, protocol #:			
Date of marriage: Location:	☐ If former spouse is dead, give date of death:			
Was this marriage ever validated in the Catholic Church?	☐ If civil divorce, give date of divorce:			
□ PETITIONER □ OTHER PARTY				
Spouse:	Check all that apply below:			
Religion of spouse:	☐ If Catholic decree of nullity, protocol #:			
Date of marriage: Location:	☐ If former spouse is dead, give date of death:			
Was this marriage ever validated in the Catholic Church?	☐ If civil divorce, give date of divorce:			
□ PETITIONER □ OTHER PARTY				
Spouse:	Check all that apply below:			
Religion of spouse:	☐ If Catholic decree of nullity, protocol #:			
Date of marriage: Location:	☐ If former spouse is dead, give date of death:			
Was this marriage ever validated in the Catholic Church?	☐ If civil divorce, give date of divorce:			
For each marriage, please enclose, if applicable, a certified civil marriage license, death certificate, divorce decree, and Catholic declaration of nullity.				

INFORMATION REGARDING THE MARRIAGE TO BE DISSOLVED

By requesting a dissolution of the bond in favor of the faith, you are asking the Roman Pontiff to dissolve your non-sacramental marriage in order that you may enter a second marriage. The faithful in the Church have no right to obtain such a dissolution of the bond; rather, the exercise of this power by the Pope is a favor which can only be granted in some circumstances, having taken into account the pastoral needs of times and places. Consequently, a request for a dissolution of the bond in favor of the faith must include some basic facts about the marriage to be dissolved. The information you provide should usually not be longer than 5 pages in length. Based on the information you provide, the bishop's delegate(s) will ask follow-up questions which deal specifically with your case.

Please provide the following information on type-written sheets of paper:

- 1. Basic details about how you and the other party met;
- 2. Basic details surrounding the courtship, the decision to marry, and the day of the wedding;
- 3. Basic details about the practice of faith during the marriage;
- 4. Basic details about why the marriage failed, especially regarding who caused the breakdown of the marriage;
- 5. Additional information which you think will be useful for the bishop's delegate(s).

WITNESSES CONCERNING THE MARRIAGE TO BE DISSOLVED

In order to demonstrate that your marriage fulfills those conditions required for the possibility of obtaining a dissolution of the bond in favor of the faith, you must provide witnesses who can attest to your character, to the facts regarding the breakdown of the marriage, and to the non-baptism of one of the parties. You should contact these witnesses in advance to ensure that they are willing to testify and to inform them that the bishop's delegate(s) will be contacting them. The pace of the process is often connected to the responses of the witnesses.

CHARACTER WITNESSES

Witnesses are needed to testify to the honesty, integrity, and reliability of the Petitioner.

WITNESS # 1	WITNESS # 2		
Name:	Name:		
Address:	Address:		
City Zip	City Zip		
Telephone:	Telephone:		
E-mail:	E-mail:		
Date of birth:	Date of birth:		
Relationship to the parties:	Relationship to the parties:		

WITNESSES TO THE BREAKDOWN OF THE MARRIAGE

Witnesses are needed who have firsthand knowledge of the reasons for the failure of the marriage and can testify to those facts.

WITNESS # 3	WITNESS # 4	
Name:	Name:	
Address:	Address:	
City State Zip	City State Zip	
Telephone:	Telephone:	
E-mail:	E-mail:	
Date of birth:	Date of birth:	
Relationship to the parties:	Relationship to the parties:	

WITNESSES TO THE NON-BAPTISM OF ONE OF THE PARTIES

Typically, the best witnesses regarding the non-baptism of one of the parties will be that person's own parents, who can attest not only that the party was not baptized, but also why that party was not baptized. In the event that the parents of the non-baptized party are unable to give testimony, it is usually necessary to obtain the testimony of other witnesses who have known the party his/her entire life and would have been old enough during that party's infancy to know whether or not he/she was ever baptized.

WITNESS # 5	WITNESS # 6			
Name:	Name:			
Address:	Address:			
City Zip	City State Zip			
Telephone:	Telephone:			
E-mail:	E-mail:			
Date of birth:	Date of birth:			
Relationship to the parties:	Relationship to the parties:			
INFORMATION REGARDING THE PETITIONER'S INTENDED SPOUSE The dissolution of the marriage bond in favor of the faith is always granted in view of a prospective marriage with a specific person. Thus, it is necessary to determine the expected benefit for the faith of the Catholic party in whose respect the favor is actually being granted, which requires that the intended spouse be questioned during the instruction of the cause. If the Petitioner has no definite plans to enter marriage at this time but still wishes to request the dissolution, the favor is usually granted only after information regarding the prospective spouse has been submitted. □ I intend to marry the person indicated below OR □ At this time, I have no definite plans to marry Current name: Maiden name (if applicable): Present address: City: State: Zip: Telephone: E-mail: Date of birth: City of birth: State: City State: Zip: Church of baptism: City: State: Zip: Palicion of hostions: Coveret religions:				
Religion of baptism:				
Has this person ever been married previously? Yes No If so, please answer the following questions:				
Spouse:	Check all that apply below:			
Religion of spouse:	☐ If Catholic decree of nullity, protocol #:			
Date of marriage: Location:	☐ If former spouse is dead, give date of death:			
Was this marriage ever validated in the Catholic Church?	☐ If civil divorce, give date of divorce:			

Please attach additional sheets as needed.

If applicable, please enclose a certified civil marriage license, death certificate, divorce decree, and Catholic declaration of nullity.

Necessary Documents:

For the Petitioner, please enclose the following documents:

- o if baptized, a baptismal certificate (issued within the last 6 months for Catholic parties)
- o if not baptized, a list of all the cities (and approximate dates) where he/she has lived during his/her life

For the other party, please enclose the following documents:

- o if baptized, a baptismal certificate (issued within the last 6 months for Catholic parties)
- o if not baptized, a list of all the cities (and approximate dates) where he/she has lived during his/her life

For the marriage to be dissolved, please enclose the following documents:

- o a certified civil marriage license
- o the complete civil divorce decree

For the intended spouse, please enclose the following documents:

- o if baptized, a baptismal certificate (issued within the last 6 months for Catholic parties)
- o if previously married: a certified civil marriage license, complete civil divorce decree, Catholic declaration of nullity, and/or death certificate if applicable

Fees for the Process:

There are many expenses involved in preparing the file and sending it to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome. As a matter of justice, many dioceses pass on some portion of those expenses to parties who request their services. If the expenses are not borne by the parties, they are borne by the Church, which ultimately means other people in the pews. In the Diocese of Madison, these expenses are covered by contributions from our parishes, and therefore there is no fee for the parties in the cause. However, if the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith requires a fee for the submission of the request for dissolution, this expense will be passed on to the Petitioner.

Please sign and date the statement below:

I understand that a dissolution of the bond in favor of the faith is a favor granted by the Holy Father and is in no way a right which is owed to me or to anyone else. As such, I request that the Bishop of the Diocese of Madison and his delegate(s) assist in the instruction of the cause in order to prepare the request to be sent to the Holy Father for his consideration.

I attest that there is no possibility of restoring the partnership of the conjugal life of the marriage I am requesting to be dissolved. Furthermore, I attest that I was not the exclusive or prevailing culpable cause of the breakup of the conjugal common life, nor did my intended spouse by his/her own fault provoke the separation of spouses.

I recognize that the materials gathered for the instruction of this process are open to the Bishop of the Diocese of Madison and his delegate(s), to other experts if necessary, to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and to the Roman Pontiff.

I understand that no guarantee can be made as to the outcome of the request, that no definite time frame for a completion date can be established, and that no date for a new marriage can be set by a parish priest or deacon unless the favor is granted.

I understand that the above-mentioned fee will be assessed to help cover the cost of the process and that it is my responsibility to make arrangements for the payment of this fee.

I swear before God and my conscience that all the information given in this petition is true insofar as I know.				
Signature of Petitioner	Date			
Signature of Priest Sponsor / Pastor	Parish	City		