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

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO USE THE PAULINE PRIVILEGE

DIOCESE OF WHEELING-CHARLESTON – PO BOX 230 – WHEELING, WV 26003 · 304-233-0880 Ext. 239

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: . . . . . State: . . . . . 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: . . . . . State: . . . . . Zip:	City: . . . . . State: . . . . . 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 THE RELATIONSHIP

Date when courtship began: . . . . . Length of courtship prior to engagement: . . . . .

Date of engagement: . . . . . Length of engagement prior to marriage: . . . . .

Date of marriage: . . . . . Length of marriage prior to divorce: . . . . .

Church or place of marriage: . . . . .

Address of church or place of marriage: . . . . .

City: . . . . . State: . . . . . Zip: . . . . .

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? ..... ☐ Yes ☐ 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 permission for use of the Pauline Privilege, you are asking the local Ordinary to verify that the conditions required for its use have been established and that the dissolution of the marriage is expedient. The faithful in the Church have no right to obtain such a dissolution of the bond; rather, the granting of this permission by the local Ordinary is a favor which can only be given in some circumstances. Consequently, a request for permission to dissolve the bond through the Pauline Privilege 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 local Ordinary'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 any religious practice during the marriage;
4. Basic details about why the marriage failed, especially regarding who caused the breakdown of the marriage;
5. Basic details about your decision to be baptized and your desire to live out your faith;
6. Additional information that you think will be useful for the local Ordinary's delegate(s).

WITNESSES CONCERNING THE MARRIAGE TO BE DISSOLVED

In order to demonstrate that your marriage fulfills those conditions required for use of the Pauline Privilege, 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 both of the parties at the time of consent. You should contact these witnesses in advance to ensure that they are willing to testify and to inform them that the local Ordinary'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 . . . . . 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 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 BOTH OF THE PARTIES AT THE TIME OF CONSENT

Typically, the best witnesses regarding the non-baptism 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 parties 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 . . . . . State. . . . . Zip.	City . . . . . State. . . . . Zip. . . . .
Telephone:	Telephone: . . . . .
E-mail:	E-mail: . . . . .
Date of birth:	Date of birth: . . . . .
Relationship to the Petitioner:	Relationship to the Other Party: . . . . .

INFORMATION REGARDING THE PETITIONER'S INTENDED SPOUSE

The dissolution of the marriage by means of the Pauline Privilege only occurs with the celebration of the new marriage. 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.

☐ 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: . . . . . .

Has this party ever been baptized? Yes No If so, please give date of baptism: . . . . . .

Church of baptism: . . . . . City: . . . . . State: . . . . . Zip: . . . . . .

Religion of baptism: . . . . . Current religion: . . . . . .

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:

- *if baptized, a baptismal certificate (issued within the last 6 months for Catholic parties)*
- *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:

- *if baptized, a baptismal certificate (issued within the last 6 months for Catholic parties)*
- *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:

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

For the intended spouse, please enclose the following documents:

- *if baptized, a baptismal certificate (issued within the last 6 months for Catholic parties)*
- *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 verifying that the conditions required for the use of the Pauline Privilege have been established. 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 Wheeling-Charleston, these expenses are covered by contributions from our parishes, and therefore there is no fee for the parties in the cause.

Please sign and date the statement below:

I request the permission of the local Ordinary for the dissolution of the aforementioned non-sacramental marriage by means of the Pauline Privilege.

I understand that rescript authorizing the use of the Pauline Privilege is a favor granted by the local Ordinary and is in no way a right which is owed to me or to anyone else. As such, I request that the local Ordinary and his delegate(s) assist in the instruction of the cause.

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 local Ordinary and his delegate(s), to other experts if necessary, and to the officers named by the local Ordinary or his delegate.

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 rescript is granted.**

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