



Diocese of Erie
Office of Matrimonial Concerns and the Tribunal

Concerning Issues: New Processing Fees

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Newsletter Announced

The Office of Matrimonial Concerns and the Tribunal wishes to announce the inauguration of a periodic newsletter entitled "Concerning Issues." As the title indicates each edition of the newsletter will deal with a particular topic concerning marriage or marriage nullity within the Church. The topics for the coming year include such items as: The Pre-Nuptial File, Permissions and Dispensations, Notifications and Record Keeping, and Processing Lack of Form cases to name a few. The Tribunal Staff hopes to address the questions and concerns that members of the clergy and parish ministers most often encounter. We welcome your suggestions for possible topics.

Office of Matrimonial Concerns and Tribunal Processing Fees To Increase

The Diocese of Erie has found it necessary to increase the fees for processing various marriage procedures. This increase will take place at the beginning of Lent 2014. The last time fees were increased was seventeen years ago in June 1997.

These fees represent about a third of the actual cost of processing the various procedures. The Catholic Stewardship Appeal subsidizes the work of the Tribunal Office for the balance of the actual amount. If a party cannot afford the entire fee, arrangements can be made to make small monthly payments. As has always been the case, no one is denied the services of the Tribunal because of an inability to pay the requested processing fee.

In the case of a formal declaration of nullity (annulment) petition, the Petitioner is asked to make a \$50 deposit with the petition. The remaining \$400 can be paid over time. If a person has more than one previous marriage that must be resolved, or married parties each have a formal case, only one fee of \$400 is asked after making the \$50 deposit for each case. For example, a couple petitioning the Tribunal to declare invalid a previous marriage for each of them would be asked to contribute a total of \$500 (a \$50 deposit for each case and one \$400 processing fee.)

Pastors are asked to submit the fee for dispensations and permissions when they submit the paperwork.

The Office of Matrimonial Concerns and the Tribunal

Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
 Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Smith, JCL
 Rev. Christopher J. Singer

Bishop of Erie
 Judicial Vicar
 Adjutant Judicial Vicar

Ms. Barbara A. Bettwy, JCL
 Sr. Sylvia Burnett, OSBM
 Sr. Jean Baptiste DiLuzio, SSJ
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 Mrs. Daniela Knepper, JCL
 Rev. Msgr. Daniel E. Magraw
 Mrs. Cynthia L. Mangiaracina
 Deacon Richard D. Shewman, JCL, DMin

Director of the Office; Judge
 Auditor
 Auditor
 Defender of the Bond
 Psychological Expert
 Defender of the Bond
 Dispensations/Permissions Delegate
 Notary
 Judge

New Processing Fees

Formal Case	\$ 450
Lack of Form	\$ 30
<i>Ligamen</i>	\$ 75
Pauline Privilege	\$ 75
Favor of the Faith	\$ 500
<i>(This fee is assessed by the Holy See)</i>	
Dispensations / Permissions	\$ 15