



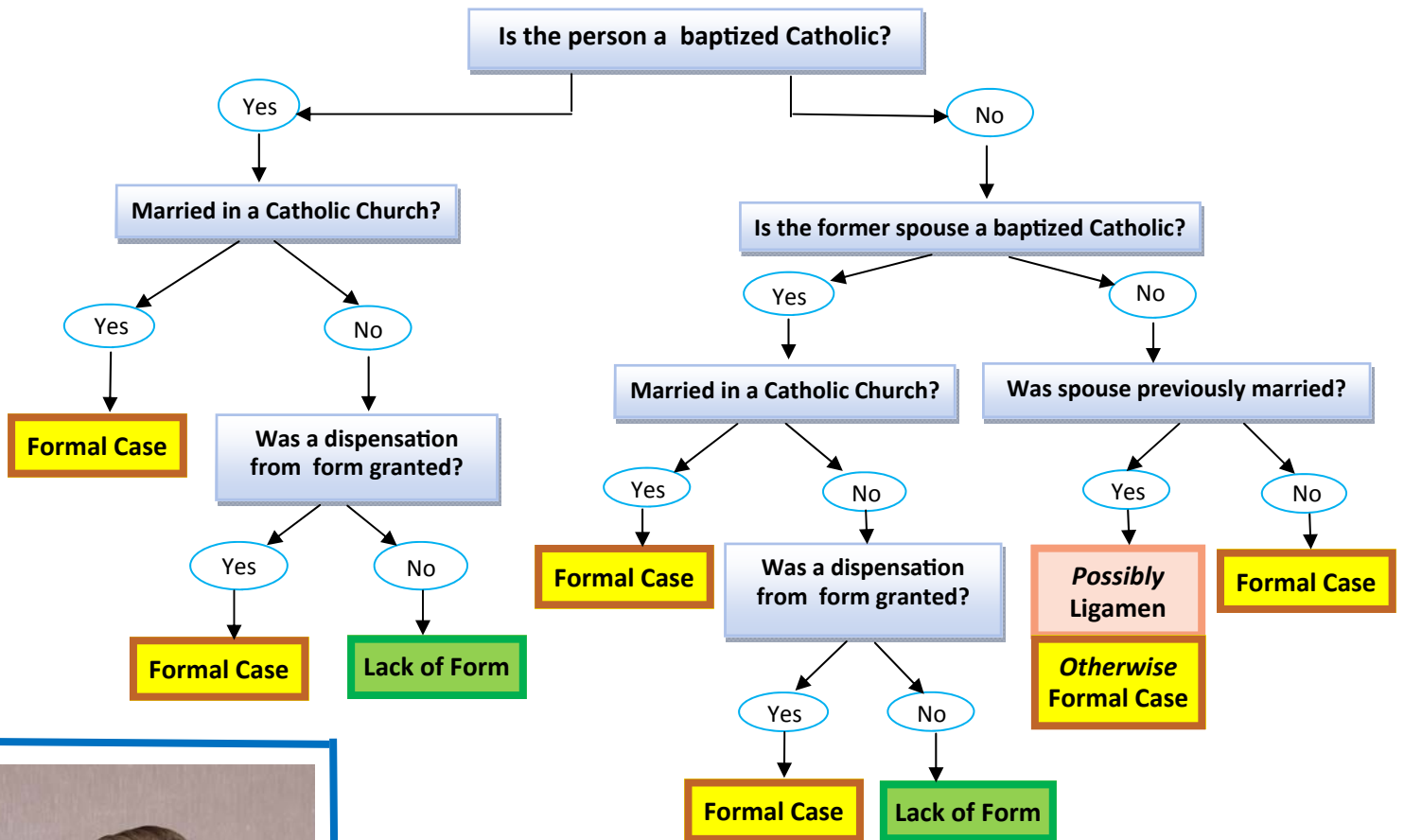
# Concerning Issues: Determining the Type of Case

## RCIA Inquirers and Marriage Issues

At this time of year many parishes are beginning to meet with persons who are interested in coming into the Church. Persons who are in an irregular marriage are not free to enter the Church until their marriage status has been resolved. For this reason, it is very important that a person's marital

status is quickly identified. If either the person who is interested in coming into the Church or their current spouse has been divorced, some sort of Tribunal process will be necessary. The following chart is designed to help clergy and those in RCIA leadership determine what kind of case may be required.

While there are no guarantees, formal petitions received in the Tribunal Office in the early Fall are often completed in time for the Rite of Election. Therefore, RCIA leaders are strongly encouraged to interview all inquirers regarding their marital status as soon as possible and call the Tribunal with any questions



### Deacon Shewman Returns to the Islands to Present Seminar

In August, Deacon Richard Shewman, a judge in the Tribunal of the Diocese of Erie, returned to the Mariana Islands where he lived for many years. He was invited by the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa to present a seminar on the topic of Child Protection Procedures. Deacon Shewman worked for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa from 1988 to 1997 as its Chancellor and Moderator of the Curia. This is his first visit back since he and his family moved to Erie in 1997. He was ordained to the diaconate for the Diocese of Guam in 1984 which was then divided into two dioceses, Guam and Chalan Kanoa. He met and married his wife, Pauline, on the Island of Ponape in 1975.