



HOW TO DETERMINE A PAULINE PRIVILEGE CASE

“If any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she is willing to go on living with him, he should not divorce her; and if any woman has a husband who is an unbeliever, and he is willing to go on living with her, she should not divorce her husband. For the unbelieving husband is made holy through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is made holy through the brother. Otherwise your children would be unclean, whereas in fact they are holy. If the unbeliever separates, however, let him separate. The brother or sister is not bound in such cases; God has called you to peace.” (I Cor. 7: 12-15, NABRE).

“A marriage entered into by two non-baptized persons is dissolved by means of the Pauline privilege in favor of the faith of the party who has received baptism by the very fact that a new marriage is contracted by the same party, provided that the non-baptized party departs. The non-baptized party is considered to depart if he or she does not wish to cohabit with the baptized party or to cohabit peacefully without affront to the Creator unless the baptized party, after baptism was received, has given the other a just cause for departing.” (Code of Canon Law, canon 1143 §§1-2).

The following questions will help you determine whether you have a Pauline Privilege case:

- YES** **NO** Were both parties unbaptized and remained so throughout the marriage?
- YES** **NO** Is it true that there is no hope that the couple will be reconciled?
- YES** **NO** Is it true that the Petitioner was not the predominant cause of the other’s departure?
- YES** **NO** Is it true that the Petitioner was not the one who refused to live in peace?
- YES** **NO** Does the Petitioner wish to be validly baptized or has the Petitioner been validly baptized since the divorce?
- YES** **NO** Does the Petitioner have a fiancé or spouse whom he/she wishes to marry in the Catholic Church?
- YES** **NO** Is it true that the use of the Pauline Privilege by the Petitioner would not be a cause of scandal?

If all questions are answered **YES**, you may have a Pauline Privilege case. Kindly put together the following documents, and mail them to the Tribunal.

- Certificate of marriage to be dissolved**
- Certified copy of the Decree of Divorce**
- Petitioner’s Certificate of Baptism (last 6 months), if baptized**
- Baptismal certificate of intended spouse (last 6 months)**
- Any freewill donation made**

After the Tribunal has received all the required documents, we will determine whether it is truly a Pauline case. When this determination has been made, we shall then send you the Pauline Privilege Petition.

If any question was answered **NO**, you have a case other than Pauline. Kindly call the Tribunal at 504-861-6291 for assistance.