

## Can we talk about your Marriage?

We find that many of the couples approaching the parish about baptism acknowledge that they have not been married in the church. This time of baptism is a good time for you as a couple to consider addressing your own marriage if in some way it does not meet the criteria of the Catholic Church.

People are often under a misunderstanding about marriage in the Church and this has caused them to seek marriage elsewhere.

We have found that there are several reasons why marriages may occur outside of the church:

- One of the parties has had a previous marriage and presumes they need an annulment. This is not always the case. In fact, in some situations, that concern can be resolved quite quickly.
- In those cases where an annulment is indicated, couples often have misunderstandings about the process based on hearsay rather than facts. This can apply to the status of children from previous marriages, the costs of annulment, and how the process is undertaken. If you would like information on an annulment, we advise you to speak to a priest at the parish.
- There are those who may believe that since they married a person who was not Catholic, they will not be allowed to be married in the church. In fact, in the Catholic Church, you may marry people who either belong to no faith or who are from other religious traditions.
- Others may have strongly desired to be married outside of Canada and did not realize a Catholic marriage could have been arranged in a foreign country.
- You are now welcoming children into your household, and this may be the time when you begin to appreciate in a new way the significance of marriage in the Church.

It is important to remember that every situation is different. We strongly encourage you to seek information in the parish, not in the coffee room at work or at family gatherings.

Having a marriage blessed is a low-key event and certainly could be one in which we include the baptism of your baby, though special arrangements for time and date would be required.

If your request for your child's baptism indicates that you have not been married in the church, we will bring this up when we meet. Is this the right time for you to have your marriage blessed?

Rest assured that your decision in this matter will not have any impact on your decision about baptism. We simply ask that you reflect on this question at this most opportune time.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**St. Pius X Parish, Toronto**