

MEMORANDUM

To: All Priests, Deacons & Pastoral Support Staff

From: Fr. Paul A. Burke, J.C.L. *Adjutant Judicial Vicar*

Re.: **New Forms for Marriage Preparation**

Date: October 19, 2023, *Feast of the North American Martyrs*

I am happy to announce that we have completed the revision process of our marriage preparation forms. All of the forms are available on the Tribunal's website:

<https://archatl.com/offices/metropolitan-tribunal/>

Under the heading Clergy Resources, you will find the following forms:

1. Bride Questionnaire
2. Groom Questionnaire
3. Prenuptial Witness Affidavit
4. Request for Dispensation or Permission
5. Request for *Nihil Obstat*
6. Request for a *Radical Sanation of a Marriage*

The forms can be filled in either by hand or on the computer. If you choose to use your computer, you will need the program *Acrobat Reader*, which you can download for free from the website *adobe.com*. Do not use your browser, as it will not allow you to save your file. If you choose to handwrite your answers, please write legibly. In any case, do not forget to sign, date and seal where it is indicated.

We have made every effort to balance the canonical and the pastoral.

Along with the forms, we have prepared a reference guide “*Prenuptial Investigation Reference Guide*” has been prepared to assist you in your completion of the prenuptial file,

Finally, there is a short video (10 minutes) to assist you in navigating the forms. This is being sent to you in your archatl.com email.

We will continue to add various resources that you might find helpful to the same folder.

The forms and resources are in the process of being translated into Spanish and Vietnamese. We will notify you when they are ready for use.

Please start using these new forms immediately. If you have already prepared couples for marriage using the old forms, there is no need to complete new ones. As of January 1, 2024, we will only accept new forms.

In response to numerous questions regarding marriages taking place at secular venues, both inside and outside, I had a discussion with Archbishop Hartmayer. With the Archbishop’s input, a policy document has been drafted. The Archbishop has asked that the document be discussed at the next Council of Priests meeting. Once the discussion has taken place and any amendments made, the policy will be released.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all who have been involved in this two-year project.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to call me at (404) 920-7514 or email me at pburke@archatl.com.