



## **ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY**

### **FORMS FOR THE PRENUPTIAL INVESTIGATION**

GROOM: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIDE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF MARRIAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH: \_\_\_\_\_

PRIEST OR DEACON: \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS 1: \_\_\_\_\_

WITNESS 2: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE TRIBUNAL**  
40 NORTH MAIN AVENUE  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12203  
518-453-6620 + [Tribunal@rcda.org](mailto:Tribunal@rcda.org)

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY**

PRENUPTIAL INVESTIGATION QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE ☐ GROOM ☐ BRIDE  
M-1 FORM

Wedding of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONAL INFORMATION --- INTERVIEW ALONE

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Present parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check if recent baptism certificate is attached ☐ or two M-3 Forms from parents and/or sponsors ☐)

Date and place of First Holy Communion: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of Confirmation: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

Names, e-mail addresses, and phone numbers of two people, preferably parents or relatives, who can attest to your freedom to marry:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

MARITAL CONSENT

Do you intend to enter a permanent, indissoluble marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you intend to be faithful to your spouse for life? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you intend that the ends of your marriage are the mutual love and support of the spouses as well as the procreation and education of children? \_\_\_\_\_

*(If any of these questions has been answered NO, attach a fuller explanation to this document.)*

If this is a convalidation, do you understand that this convalidation is a new act of marrying in the Catholic Church and not merely the continuation of the existing civil union? \_\_\_\_\_

## ENTRANCE INTO MARRIAGE

Have you ever been ordained or made a profession in a religious institute? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you related to your intended spouse by blood, marriage, or adoption? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any physical defect that would prevent marital relations? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been treated for any serious mental or emotional illness, substance abuse, or dependency of any kind? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you under pressure from any person or circumstance to enter this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you placing any conditions or have you any serious doubts about this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If under twenty-one years of age, do your parents have any objection concerning this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

*(If any of these questions has been answered YES, attach a fuller explanation to this document.)*

When did you meet your intended spouse? \_\_\_\_\_

When did you begin dating your intended spouse? \_\_\_\_\_

When were you engaged for marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

## PREVIOUS MARRIAGE

*(Check here if this is a convalidation of a current marriage ☐ and attach a copy of the civil affidavit, license, and certificate of marriage.)*

Have you been married civilly, in church, or by common law anywhere? \_\_\_\_\_

How often? \_\_\_\_\_

Former spouse: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of marriage: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Place: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Before whom: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

How did the marriage cease?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTESTATION

Do you affirm the truth of the above statements, so help you God? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Priest or Deacon: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Priest or Deacon: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature)

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY**

PRENUPTIAL INVESTIGATION QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE ☐ GROOM ☐ BRIDE  
M-1 FORM

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at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

PERSONAL INFORMATION --- INTERVIEW ALONE

Full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_ Present parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

(Check if recent baptism certificate is attached ☐ or two M-3 Forms from parents and/or sponsors ☐)

Date and place of First Holy Communion: \_\_\_\_\_

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Father's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Mother's maiden name: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you intend that the ends of your marriage are the mutual love and support of the spouses as well as the procreation and education of children? \_\_\_\_\_

*(If any of these questions has been answered NO, attach a fuller explanation to this document.)*

If this is a convalidation, do you understand that this convalidation is a new act of marrying in the Catholic Church and not merely the continuation of the existing civil union? \_\_\_\_\_

## ENTRANCE INTO MARRIAGE

Have you ever been ordained or made a profession in a religious institute? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you related to your intended spouse by blood, marriage, or adoption? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any physical defect that would prevent marital relations? \_\_\_\_\_

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Are you placing any conditions or have you any serious doubts about this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If under twenty-one years of age, do your parents have any objection concerning this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

*(If any of these questions has been answered YES, attach a fuller explanation to this document.)*

When did you meet your intended spouse? \_\_\_\_\_

When did you begin dating your intended spouse? \_\_\_\_\_

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## PREVIOUS MARRIAGE

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How often? \_\_\_\_\_

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Date of marriage: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Place: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Before whom: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

How did the marriage cease?  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTESTATION

Do you affirm the truth of the above statements, so help you God? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Priest or Deacon: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Priest or Deacon: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY**  
**FREEDOM TO MARRY WITNESS AFFIDAVIT**  
**M-2 FORM**

Name of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address and phone number of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby affirm, so help me God, the following about \_\_\_\_\_  
who wishes to enter marriage.

What is your relationship to the above-named party? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the above-named party? \_\_\_\_\_

Has this person ever contracted or entered a previous marriage, even with his or her current spouse,  
by either a civil or a religious ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_ To whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

How was each marriage dissolved? \_\_\_\_\_

To your knowledge, is this person entering marriage under fear or pressure? \_\_\_\_\_

To your knowledge, has this person ever expressed an indication against marriage as a bond that is  
permanent, open to children, and lived in fidelity to one's spouse for life? \_\_\_\_\_

If either spouse is under twenty-one years of age, have the parents objected to this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have anything else to share about the person or any explanation of the above answers? \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please feel free to attach an additional document.)

-----  
This affidavit may be notarized by a priest, deacon, or parish life coordinator if signed in their  
presence; otherwise, it should be signed before a notary public.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY**  
**FREEDOM TO MARRY WITNESS AFFIDAVIT**  
**M-2 FORM**

Name of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address and phone number of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby affirm, so help me God, the following about \_\_\_\_\_  
who wishes to enter marriage.

What is your relationship to the above-named party? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the above-named party? \_\_\_\_\_

Has this person ever contracted or entered a previous marriage, even with his or her current spouse,  
by either a civil or a religious ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_ To whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

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To your knowledge, has this person ever expressed an indication against marriage as a bond that is  
permanent, open to children, and lived in fidelity to one's spouse for life? \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY**  
**FREEDOM TO MARRY WITNESS AFFIDAVIT**  
**M-2 FORM**

Name of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address and phone number of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby affirm, so help me God, the following about \_\_\_\_\_  
who wishes to enter marriage.

What is your relationship to the above-named party? \_\_\_\_\_

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Has this person ever contracted or entered a previous marriage, even with his or her current spouse,  
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If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_ To whom? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

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To your knowledge, has this person ever expressed an indication against marriage as a bond that is  
permanent, open to children, and lived in fidelity to one's spouse for life? \_\_\_\_\_

If either spouse is under twenty-one years of age, have the parents objected to this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have anything else to share about the person or any explanation of the above answers? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY**  
**FREEDOM TO MARRY WITNESS AFFIDAVIT**  
**M-2 FORM**

Name of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address and phone number of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby affirm, so help me God, the following about \_\_\_\_\_  
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presence; otherwise, it should be signed before a notary public.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY**  
**WITNESS AFFIDAVIT FOR BAPTISM WHEN A CERTIFICATE CANNOT BE OBTAINED**  
**M-3 FORM**

Name of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address and phone number of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby affirm, so help me God, the following about \_\_\_\_\_  
who wishes to enter marriage.

What is your relationship to the above-named party? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the above-named party? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the above-named party ever baptized? \_\_\_\_\_ In what religion? \_\_\_\_\_

Please be as specific as possible -- when was the baptism? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was the baptism? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was the minister of baptism? \_\_\_\_\_

Who were the sponsors? \_\_\_\_\_

Were you present at this baptism? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, how do you know about this baptism?  
Please share as many details as possible about the baptism ceremony on a separate document to  
attach to this affidavit.

If the above-named party was baptized in the Catholic Church, did this person receive the  
sacraments of confirmation and/or first holy communion? \_\_\_\_\_ Please share as  
many details as possible about the reception of these sacraments on a separate document to attach  
to this affidavit.

-----  
This affidavit may be notarized by a priest, deacon, or parish life coordinator if signed in their  
presence; otherwise, it should be signed before a notary public.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY**  
**WITNESS AFFIDAVIT FOR BAPTISM WHEN A CERTIFICATE CANNOT BE OBTAINED**  
**M-3 FORM**

Name of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address and phone number of witness: \_\_\_\_\_

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How long have you known the above-named party? \_\_\_\_\_

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Please be as specific as possible -- when was the baptism? \_\_\_\_\_

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sacraments of confirmation and/or first holy communion? \_\_\_\_\_ Please share as  
many details as possible about the reception of these sacraments on a separate document to attach  
to this affidavit.

-----  
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presence; otherwise, it should be signed before a notary public.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY**  
**NOTIFICATION OF THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE**  
**M-4 FORM**

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

Dear Pastor or delegate:

Here is some information about a person baptized in your parish who recently celebrated marriage. I kindly request that you record the marriage in your parish register. I also ask that you acknowledge receipt of this request by returning this form to me. Thank you very much for your assistance in recording this marriage.

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

Baptized on \_\_\_\_\_

at the Church of \_\_\_\_\_

in (city, state) \_\_\_\_\_

celebrated marriage with:

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

on: \_\_\_\_\_

at the Church of \_\_\_\_\_

in (city, state) \_\_\_\_\_.

+++++

I have recorded this information:

Pastor or delegate: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE FORM TO:

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

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY**  
**NOTIFICATION OF THE CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE**  
**M-4 FORM**

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

Dear Pastor or delegate:

Here is some information about a person baptized in your parish who recently celebrated marriage. I kindly request that you record the marriage in your parish register. I also ask that you acknowledge receipt of this request by returning this form to me. Thank you very much for your assistance in recording this marriage.

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

Baptized on \_\_\_\_\_

at the Church of \_\_\_\_\_

in (city, state) \_\_\_\_\_

celebrated marriage with:

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

on: \_\_\_\_\_

at the Church of \_\_\_\_\_

in (city, state) \_\_\_\_\_.

+++++

I have recorded this information:

Pastor or delegate: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE FORM TO:

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

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ALBANY**  
APPLICATION FOR  
DISPENSATION FOR DISPARITY OF WORSHIP OR  
PERMISSION FOR MIXED RELIGION  
M-5 FORM

PARISH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned priest or deacon, petition the Bishop to grant permission and/or any necessary dispensation for the couple named below to celebrate marriage validly and licitly on:

DATE OF WEDDING \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**THE CATHOLIC PARTY**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

MAIDEN NAME (IF APPLICABLE) \_\_\_\_\_

**THE NON-CATHOLIC PARTY**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

MAIDEN NAME (IF APPLICABLE) \_\_\_\_\_

Is the non-Catholic party baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

If baptized, in what Christian community did the baptism occur? \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for this request: \_\_\_\_\_ Spiritual benefit of the parties

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please explain):

**THE DECLARATION AND PROMISE OF THE CATHOLIC PARTY**

I reaffirm my faith in Jesus Christ, and with God's help, intend to continue living that faith in the Catholic Church. I will do all in my power to remove any dangers of defecting from the Catholic faith. I also make a sincere promise to share this faith and do all in my power that our children are baptized and brought up in the Catholic Church.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF CATHOLIC PARTY

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**DECLARATION OF THE PRIEST OR DEACON**

I have instructed and formed the parties about the nature, ends, and sanctity of marriage. The Catholic party has made the above declaration and promise in my presence, and I am certain that the non-Catholic party has been informed of the promise and obligation of the Catholic party.

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINTED NAME OF PRIEST OR DEACON

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PRIEST OR DEACON

\_\_\_\_\_  
BEST TELEPHONE NUMBER

Please return this original M-5 Form to:

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Albany  
40 North Main Avenue  
Albany, New York 12203

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

- FILE RETENTION. These prenuptial investigation (PNI) documents and all other documents related to this marriage are to be retained permanently in a safe location -- preferably fire resistant and waterproof -- in the parish of the place of the marriage. Follow the instructions from the Tribunal for the storage of PNI and other marriage documents if a marriage occurs in a location other than a church.
- EVIDENCE OF BAPTISM. For a party baptized in the Catholic Church or received into it, include in the PNI file a recently-dated certificate of baptism or two completed M-3 Forms for the party if a certificate cannot be obtained. Wherever possible, proof concerning the baptism of a non-Catholic party should be obtained and included in the PNI file.
- SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION. The cleric forming this couple and assisting at this celebration of marriage may add supplementary documents to this record, which comment on any or all the following topics concerning each party:
  - Family background and environment
  - Education and employment
  - Physical and emotional health
  - Acquaintance and dating
  - Religious convictions, expectations, and values
  - The indissolubility of marriage
  - Lifelong fidelity to one's spouse
  - Openness to the procreation and education of children
  - The selection of marriage in light of pregnancy
  - The opinion of the parents of the parties
  - The priest or deacon's evaluation of the parties' readiness to enter marriage.
- FORMATION FOR MARRIAGE. Does at least one party reside in the Diocese of Albany? If not, refer the parties to the proper pastor of the Catholic party or parties for formation for marriage and the completion of the PNI even though the wedding will take place in the Diocese of Albany.
- The following marriages require the intervention of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Albany for a dispensation, permission, and/or Nihil Obstat declaration:
  - Either party is baptized in or received into an Eastern Catholic Church or an Orthodox Church -- see note 1 below; or
  - Either party has not completed their twenty-first year -- see note 2 below; or
  - Either party has celebrated or attempted a marriage by any means before any officiant, even if the prior spouse is deceased -- see note 3 below; or
  - Either party has obtained a declaration of nullity of a prior bond of marriage from the competent ecclesiastical authority -- see note 3 below.
  - A Catholic party wishes to marry an unbaptized person or a baptized non-Catholic -- see note 4 below.



## **NOTES**

- Note 1 For validity, only a priest can assist at a marriage that involves a Latin Catholic who wishes to marry an Eastern Catholic or Orthodox party. Please ensure the proposed assistant whose name appears on the cover page is a priest. Please send to the Tribunal:
  - The PNI cover page; and
  - Both M-1 Forms;
  - Two M-2 Forms for each party; and
  - The M-5 Form, requesting permission for mixed religion if one of the parties is baptized in an Orthodox Church.
- Note 2 For this marriage, please send to the Tribunal:
  - The PNI cover page; and
  - Both M-1 Forms; and
  - Two M-2 Forms for each party; and
  - Written permission from the parents of both parties in the PNI documentation.
- Note 3 For this marriage, please send to the Tribunal:
  - The PNI cover page; and
  - Both M-1 Forms; and
  - Two M-2 Forms for each party; and
  - Certificates of death, if applicable; and
  - Ecclesiastical declarations of marital nullity, if applicable; and
  - Decrees or letters from the competent authority lifting any prohibitions prior to celebrating marriage; and
  - The priest or deacon's evaluation of the parties' readiness to enter marriage.
- Note 4 For this marriage, please send to the Tribunal only the completed M-5 Form: the Application for Dispensation for Disparity of Worship or Permission for Mixed Religion.

## **DEADLINES TO SEND APPLICATIONS TO THE TRIBUNAL**

Four weeks before the wedding: all dispensation and permission requests, with the exceptions noted below.

Six weeks before the wedding: request for *Nihil Obstat*

Eight weeks before the wedding: request for *Nihil Obstat* when the wedding is to be celebrated outside of the Diocese of Albany

Twelve weeks before the wedding: request for *Nihil Obstat* when the wedding is to be celebrated in a diocese outside of the United States of America