

Last week for daily evening Mass at 5:10 in Sacred Heart Church.

Tomorrow: Holy Hour at 4:45 in Sacred Heart Church.

Your Catechism On Marriage

- 1) A valid marriage is the union of one man and one woman, who, not prevented by Your Catechism On Marriage and
- 1) A valid marriage is the union of one man and one woman, who, not prevented by impediment, give proper, free and mutual consent before competent authority and this law binds all Catholics, even those merely baptized, who have not received the other Sacraments. Hence, a Catholic who attempts marriage with anybody, before any authority, civil or religious, other than a priest, commits serious sin; and the marriage is invalid.
- 3) A non-Catholic can marry validly before any competent authority, civil or religious; for example: two Jews can marry before a duly qualified Rabbi or civil authority; two Protestants can marry before a duly qualified minister or civil authority. A Jew or a Protestant of one or no faith, marrying a Catholic, however, must respect the conscience of the Catholic and marry before a priest.
- 4) Divorce is an attempt to dissolve a valid marriage bond. Such provision of civil law is contrary to moral and Divine law. No legislator or legislature can morally provide for divorce any more reasonably than he could provide for murder or lying. There is no such thing as grounds for divorce intended to dissolve the valid marriage contract.
- 5) A Separation may be provided for by law in instances where the parties of a marriage find it necessary or advisable, for good reason, to live apart, without, however, any intention or attempt to marry another while this bond exists.
- 6) An Annulment is a decision and declaration by lawful authority that a valid marriage never existed: that the marriage performed was, for one of many possible reasons, null and void. An annulment is possible only on the basis of some impediment which existed up to, and including, the time of the ceremony. An annulment can never be decided on the grounds of a complaint arising after a valid contract has been entered into.
- 7) Since a divorce is an attempt to break a valid marriage bond, neither a Catholic nor a non-Catholic may get a divorce. Why? Because civil law, in providing for a divorce, is out of order. A marriage bond, once validly contracted, can be dissolved only by the death of one party. No authority on earth -- senate, assembly, or congress, or parliament -- no president, king, dictator, or governor -- no pope, cardinal, bishop, priest, minister, or rabbi can contradict the law of God: "What God hath joined together let No Man put asunder." Therefore, all divorce laws which attempt to dissolve a valid marriage bond so that either or both parties may marry again, are contrary to the Will of God.
- 8) The only circumstances under which divorce could be conceived as moral are: a) in the sense that it serve as a legal separation, forbidding, however, either party to marry while the other lives; b) that it serve as a civil dissolution of an invalid contract nullifying all the civil effects of that contract.

Always remember that: the Catholic Church can not dispense one, validly married and divorced, to marry again; the Catholic Church respects the validity of all marriages properly contracted before civil or religious authority; the Catholic Church does not grant divorces; the Catholic Church decides annulments when proof is afforded that a marriage contract is null and void; the Catholic Church is not influenced in her judgment by the station or wealth of an individual, but by evidence only.