

# A Celebration of Convalidation

## SEEKING HOLY MATRIMONY IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Couples married outside the Church seeking to convalidate their marriage in the Catholic tradition are invited to this celebration.*

**Why:** A marriage covenant within the Catholic tradition is strengthened by God's grace and supported by His Church.

**When:** Sat. February 8, 2025, at 6:00 PM (World Marriage Week)

**Where:** Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston, MA

**Hosted by:** Family Life Ministry

**Celebrants:** Bishop Mark O'Connell and Bishop Cristiano Barbosa

**How:** Contact the parish where you attend Mass and express your desire for a convalidation. If you do not have a parish where you regularly worship, you can go to the nearest Catholic church. Contact us if you have any difficulty connecting with a parish.

Meet with the priest or his delegate to discuss your situation and determine what documents may be needed. Here are several examples:

- Baptismal Certificate of bride and/or groom, if applicable
- Confirmation Certificate of bride and/or groom, if applicable
- Civil Marriage Certificate
- A Decree of Annulment from a prior marriage, if applicable

*Note: If you had a prior marriage and you are not sure whether you will need an annulment, please talk to your priest. If one is required, please call the [Tribunal](#) for assistance at 617-746-5900. You will need to wait for a Decree of Annulment before you can set a date for the convalidation.*

*Sacramental records: If the parish where you received your sacrament(s) has closed, please contact Archives for help at [archives@rcab.org](mailto:archives@rcab.org) or call 617-747-5795.*

**For the priest or his delegate:** We encourage a couple to consider convalidating their marriage at their parish yet provide this additional option. **If you and the couple choose the option of the Celebration of Convalidation at the Cathedral, please have the couple register at:**  
<https://bit.ly/CatholicConvalidation>.

After the preparation is completed, please return all the relevant paperwork such as the interrogatories with the parish seal and signature, the civil marriage certificate, sacramental records, and a completed marriage envelope **by January 17, 2025** to:

Attn: Family Life/Convalidation Ceremony  
Pastoral Center  
66 Brooks Drive  
Braintree, MA 02184

***Please do not send any marriage paperwork to the Cathedral of the Holy Cross.***



While preparing the couples, use your discretion on whether it would be best for the couple to participate in a marriage preparation course (recommended for couples married fewer than two years) or a marriage enrichment program. We suggest the following:

- Visit our [website](#) for the *Transformed in Love* marriage preparation schedule of workshops. On-demand options are available if the dates listed do not work. Preparation in Spanish is also available. Please include a certificate of completion with the paperwork if the couple attends the preparation.
- Marriage enrichment opportunities for those married for two or more years:
  - [Catholic Couple CheckUp Inventory](#)
  - [REFOCCUS Inventory](#)
  - [Marriage Encounter](#) for virtual and in-person retreats

*Note: A couple does not need to provide a certificate of completion for participation in marriage enrichment.*

Once we receive the couple's paperwork, we will follow up with them regarding parking, photos, etc.

Please contact Family Life Consultant, Emily Elliott with any questions at 617-746-5756 or email Emily Elliot at [emily\\_elliott@rcab.org](mailto:emily_elliott@rcab.org).



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EVANGELIZATION  
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