

## **User's Guide to the Canonical Documents for Marriage:**

Page one of the documents is a general information cover sheet which is to be used in each case and placed in the marriage file. Besides seeking to establish basic biographical and ceremonial information, the first page also requires the signature of the Pastor or Priest Moderator in cases where the delegation of another cleric to witness the marriage is required by law.

Pages two through five contain the canonical inquiry required for the groom (pp. 2-3) and the canonical inquiry required for the bride (pp. 4-5). The inquiries have been formatted to a question and answer style. Pages two through five must always be used and placed in the marriage file.

Page six contains free-state affidavits for both parties. The affidavits have been formatted in a paragraph style and are acceptable for establishing the freedom of the parties to marry in conjunction with a sacramental record from the parish of baptism for Catholics. The use of this page and its retention in the marriage file is always highly recommended. However, this page is *always required*, when the parties are unknown to the person preparing the couple, and when requesting a permission or dispensation for marriage for the Catholic party.

Page seven is the familiar paperwork necessary for requesting permission or dispensation for the Catholic party. It need only be included in the file as the circumstances require.

Page eight, similarly, is used only in instances when the marriage pertain to the validation of a non-canonical marriage (commonly referred to as "convalidation"), the promise of the Catholic party when mixed marriages and dispensations for disparity of cult require it, when the dispensation from canonical form is requested, and when the approval of parents or guardians is necessary for a minor.