



## Form for Permission to Solemnize a Marriage

*Convocation of American Churches in Europe*

Name of Priest: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish or Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

City & Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Proposed Marriage: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Marriages: \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) of Previous Marriages \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Ages of Children from Previous Marriages None \_\_\_\_\_

Child Support Paid in Full?    Yes            No            (If NO, explain why not in a separate letter.)

Name of Bride: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Marriages: \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) of Previous Marriage(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Names and Ages of Children from Previous Marriage(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Child Support Paid in Full?    Yes            No            (If NO, explain why not in a separate letter.)

I have ascertained by examination of the relevant documents that the marriage(s) of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

has/have been legally dissolved.

*Signed,* \_\_\_\_\_

(If a judgment of nullity alone is requested, send in only this first page.)

Circle the appropriate response:

- |     |    |     |   |
|-----|----|-----|---|
| Yes | No | N/A | I have ascertained that the couple has already been married civilly (if national law requires it prior to religious solemnization).   |
| Yes | No |     | I have or will fulfill the canonical requirements for pre-marital conversations, including discussion of marriage as a sacrament, family issues, communication skills, budgeting and financial planning, and sexuality.                       |
| Yes | No |     | I have asked the couple whether another priest of this Church has declined to solemnize the marriage. If so, I have asked that priest to discuss the grounds for refusal.   |
| Yes | No |     | I have ascertained that at least one person is a baptized Christian.  |
| Yes | No |     | I am reasonably assured that the couple, or least one person, will continue as a member in a congregation of the Christian Church.  |
| Yes | No | N/A | If the couple chose to co-habit before marriage, I have inquired of the couple why they made this decision, in light of statistical evidence that co-habitation prior to marriage is predictive of higher chances of divorce and child abuse. |
| Yes | No |     | I believe the marriage of this couple is well-intended and that the reasons for previous failure have been realistically addressed.   |
| Yes | No |     | The date of the proposed marriage is at least 30 days from the <i>receipt</i> of this petition to solemnize it. (If not, explain why in a separate letter.)   |
| Yes | No |     | I have enclosed the responses from the divorced person(s) with this petition. (If not, explain why in a separate letter.)   |
| Yes | No |     | I will solemnize this marriage if permission is given.  |

(If one person or both persons has been divorced more than twice,  
please speak to the Bishop personally.)

I request permission to solemnize the marriage of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  
on \_\_\_\_\_, 200\_\_.

*Signed,* \_\_\_\_\_



## THE CONVOCATION OF AMERICAN CHURCHES IN EUROPE

*Episcopal Church USA within the Anglican Communion*

The Right Reverend Pierre W. Whalon, Bishop in Charge

Dear sister or brother,

As you know, Episcopalians look to their bishops to provide a special ministry of oversight for them. Among other duties, this means taking the responsibility before God for giving permission for a priest to solemnize the marriage of someone who has been previously married.

I respectfully ask that you write a letter to me to form part of your priest's request for permission to proceed with your re-marriage. I will hold this letter, as well as the other materials your priest will submit, in the strictest confidence.

Please feel free to make your letter as long or as brief as you like, handwritten or typewritten. (Besides English, it could be in French, German, Spanish or Italian.) In any event, try to help me learn something of the following:

- (a) the reasons for the failure of the previous marriage(s)
- (b) what counseling took place, if any, to try to save the marriage
- (c) what spiritual regeneration and growth you have experienced since the divorce
- (d) what grounds you have for confidence in the success of the intended marriage

You may give your letter to your priest for inclusion in the request for permission, or you may mail it directly to me, marked "personal and confidential," to the address shown below. (If you mail it directly to me, please let your priest know that you have done so.)

Thank you in advance.

Yours in Christ,