

# *How to Understand* & *Petition for* **Your Decree of Nullity**

## **Group Book-Study Guide**

In order to understand what the Church really teaches about marriage, divorce, and ‘annulments’ (Decree of Nullity) we recommend that you read through *How to Understand & Petition for Your Decree of Nullity*. This guide will help you discuss the four book parts that have been separated into five (5) reading assignments, corresponding with five separate weeks or sessions. You can obtain a copy of the book at [www.AscensionPress.com](http://www.AscensionPress.com).

### **Session 1** Read: Introduction and Chapters 1 – 4

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What two things **MUST** be present for valid marriage bond according to the Church dimension of the union? (P.18) Which one do you think is most often missing in an invalid marriage?
2. Do you understand the spousal analogy? (P.18,19) Does it make sense to you? Why or why not?
3. What four components comprise valid consent? Can you see which one, or more, may have been missing in your marriage?

### **Session 2** Read: Chapters 5 - 7

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What is an impediment?
2. Discuss *Grave Defect of Discretion* on P. 40 – 44. This is **THE** most common grounds for nullity in our culture today. Which may have been present in your courtship, dating, or marriage? Share appropriately with others.
3. Form and matter are part of every sacrament. In civil law, can you think of an incorrect form that invalidates a purchase or other legal transaction? Who is protected when that requirement is upheld?

### **Session 3** Read: Chapters 8 - 10

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What is on “trial” during the annulment proceedings? (P.65)
2. Have you ever been involved in a civil court case? Discuss the mechanics of ‘trial’ at the tribunal level and how each person plays an important part.
3. Why do you think it’s vital to go as far back as childhood in looking for the truth about one’s INTENT or ABILITY to give valid consent?

### **Session 4** Read: Chapters 11- 13

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. On Pages 98- 109 put an X or ✓ next to all that you think might apply to you or your ex-spouse. Discuss appropriately with the group.
2. Do the same for Chapter 12 (Pages 111 – 116).
3. What fears might keep one of your witnesses from offering clear and complete testimony to the truth of your or someone’s situation?

### **Session 5** Read: Chapters 14 - 16

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What do you understand about “redemptive suffering” and how it works? What particular pain or injustice can you offer up right now for someone?
2. What is difficult for you about obedience?
3. What is difficult for you about forgiveness?

*Don't forget to read the Frequently Asked Questions and refer to the Glossary of Terms.*