

CHANGES TO FOSTER THE GOOD OF THE FAITHFUL IN MARRIAGE NULLITY PROCESS

By Rev. Vincent Pereira, JCD, JV.

On September 8, 2015, Pope Francis issued two decrees relating to the nullity process: one for the Latin Church and the other for the Oriental Churches in view of the Jubilee of Mercy that commences on December 8, 2015. The Holy Father simplified the nullity process without undermining the sacrament of marriage, i.e., the indissolubility of the marriage bond. I wish to highlight a few judicial points of the decree that directly affects divorced persons.

The simpler approach favours accessibility and timely procedures for persons applying to marriage tribunals. When the decree comes into effect on December 8, 2015, the decision of the local tribunal is sufficient. Once the declaration is made by the local tribunal, it will no longer be mandatory to proceed to the automatic review by the National

Tribunal, as currently required. An appeal is still possible if one of the parties wishes to appeal a decision. Our Ottawa Tribunal currently renders a decision, on average, within one year from the time that a petition is received. A further change concerns the competency of the local tribunal. Under the new procedure, the petitioner's domicile – with the availability of some witnesses locally - is sufficient for a local tribunal to take up a case with some conditions. Further, there is no fee for the services of the tribunal. For some years, our Ottawa Tribunal has not requested a fee. Donations to support the work of the tribunal are always welcomed. Please make these new procedures known to people who may benefit from this outreach of the new evangelization, so that the Gentle and Merciful Judge, the Lord Jesus Christ, may invite more to the graces offered through his Church.

SACRED PLACES FOR SACRED MEMORIES... IN THE TRADITION OF FAITH



Catholic Cemeteries
of the Archdiocese of Ottawa

Hope Cemetery
4660 Bank Street
Ottawa ON K1T 3W7
613-822-1212
hopecemetery.ca

Notre-Dame Cemetery
455 Montreal Road
Ottawa ON K1K 0V2
613-746-4175
notredamecemetery.ca