
MEMO

TO: Pastors, Administrators and Parish Staff

FROM: Chancery

Please note the following:

Canonical form for marriages of one Latin Catholic and one Eastern Catholic or of two Eastern Catholics which is celebrated by a Latin priest

1. Marriages by a Latin priest involving two Eastern Catholics, or an Eastern Catholic and a non-Catholic, are not valid unless the necessary authorization has been granted by the competent Eastern hierarch or Eastern Catholic pastor.

However, a local Ordinary, or a parish priest, validly assists at a marriage between a Latin Catholic and an Eastern Catholic.

It is strongly recommended that the parties be interviewed by the Pastor of the Eastern Catholic so that he can determine if any impediments are present according to the Eastern Code of Canon Law.

Marriages involving an Eastern Catholic are not valid if celebrated by a deacon or authorized lay person.

2. In sum, a duly authorized priest of the Latin Church can assist validly at the marriage of one member of an Eastern Church with a member of the Latin Church. However, he cannot assist at the marriage of two members of an Eastern Church, or one Eastern Catholic and a non-Catholic, without the delegation (authorization) mentioned in paragraph one.

*See chart on second page

Chart – Marriages Involving an Eastern Catholic

