



## CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH

### **OCIA Information Sheet**

We welcome you, as you begin the process of learning about the Roman Catholic Church. We will do all that we can to help you to learn about the Catholic Faith. The first thing we ask of you is that you complete this questionnaire.

This questionnaire is a useful tool to help us serve you better and get to know you and your particular situation. It will also help us determine in advance any impediments to your becoming a Catholic, should you choose. Each question is asked for a particular purpose, although not all questions may apply to you specifically.

Please answer fully all questions that apply to you. The questions that do not apply to you should be left blank. For the “Yes” / “No” / “Not Sure” questions, please check the appropriate box provided. If there are any questions that you do not understand or are uncomfortable with answering here, you may leave them blank and these can be discussed with either the priest assisting with OCIA or the OCIA director.

### ***An Introduction and Explanation***

To keep everyone involved from having to make difficult decisions at an inopportune time, we have created this questionnaire. Through your completion of this form and our discussion with you about certain responses, we hope to avoid any last minute surprises and deal with any issues far in advance in a proper, pastoral way.

These questions have been developed by looking at some of the awkward situations of others and then asking: How could someone have found out about this problem sooner? What question(s) should have been asked at the start of the OCIA process? There are a number of questions here, which are designed to identify and properly guide us through this process to make it as smooth and surprise-free as possible.

**Your answers are personal and will be treated as confidential; they will only be seen by the OCIA director, the priest assisting with OCIA, and the Pastor of the Cathedral Parish.**

### ***Need for Sponsor and / or Godparent/s***

If you will become a Roman Catholic or are already Roman Catholic but want the sacrament of Confirmation, you will need to select one person who meets the criteria below to be your Confirmation sponsor. You need only one Confirmation sponsor, and the sponsor does not need to be the same sex as you.

If you're not baptized and want to become Roman Catholic, your Confirmation sponsor can also serve as your godparent in baptism, or you can choose another person, or two persons, to serve as your godparent/s. One of the persons must be Catholic and meet the criteria below, while the other needn't be Catholic but must be a practicing and faithful Christian. Usually two persons are chosen to be godparents for a minor, but only one of each sex is permitted.

Canon 892 of the *Code of Canon Law*, 1983, states the purpose and criteria for a person to be eligible to be a confirmation sponsor:

“It is for the sponsor to see that the confirmed person acts as a true witness to Christ and faithfully fulfills the obligations connected with this sacrament.”

Essentially, the same is true for baptismal godparents except, in the case of a child, they have the additional responsibility of seeing that the child is raised in the Catholic faith in the event the child's parents were to die or be unable to care for the child.

To perform the role of Confirmation sponsor or baptismal godparent, the person/s must meet the following conditions:

1. Be designated by the one to be baptized/confirmed, or by their parents or the person who takes their place...;
2. Be at least 17 years of age;
3. Be a Catholic who:
  1. has been confirmed; and
  2. has already received the sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist; and
  3. leads a life in harmony with the Catholic faith and the role to be undertaken.
4. Not be bound by a canonical penalty (e.g., excommunication, interdiction, a priest or deacon suspended from clerical functions) legitimately imposed or declared;
5. Not be the father or mother of the one to be confirmed or baptized.

**May God bless you and be with you as you journey with us. We will pray every day for you in this potentially life-changing process.**

## General Information

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal Name (First, Middle, [3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> names], and Last): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth (city & state): \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Mother (include maiden name in parentheses): \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Present religious affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please identify children (if any) and whether you desire them to be Catholic:

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	DOB mm/dd/yy	Baptized?	Church of Baptism	To be Catholic ?

## Religious History

1. Are you a member of any Order of Freemasonry or its appendant (e.g., York Rite, Scottish Rite, Shriners, Order of the Eastern Star, National Sojourners, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, Daughters of the Nile, Order of DeMolay, Job's Daughters, etc.)?

Yes  No

2. Are you Baptized?  Yes  No If "Yes":

Date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

You will need to submit a proof of your baptism. Proof provided (in order of preference):

A. Baptismal certificate  Yes  No If No, then:

(Please submit a **copy** of any certificate you have along with this form)

B. Written testimony of relative or friend who witnessed your baptism:  Yes  No If No, then:

C. Photograph of you being baptized:  Yes

3. If you are a Roman Catholic, have you made your first Confession?

Yes  No  Not sure

If "Yes", when and where? \_\_\_\_\_

4. If you are a Roman Catholic, have you made your first Holy Communion?

Yes  No  Not sure

If "Yes", when and where? \_\_\_\_\_

5. If you are a Roman Catholic, have you been Confirmed?  Yes  No  Not sure

If "Yes", when and where? \_\_\_\_\_

6. At this point in time, which of the following statements best describes your present feelings / thoughts?

A. I want to better understand what Roman Catholics believe, but I **do not** wish to become a Roman Catholic.

B. I am **not sure** at this time if I want to fully become a Roman Catholic.

C. I am **very sure** that I want to fully become a Roman Catholic.

D. I am Roman Catholic and I want **both** of the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

E. I am Roman Catholic and I want the sacrament of Confirmation ONLY.

7. In question 6, if you checked C, D, or E, then please check one of the following and complete the information in the fields given:

- I have a person/s in mind for being my baptismal godparents:
  - Proposed female godparent: \_\_\_\_\_  
Church and location where godparent attends: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Proposed male godparent \_\_\_\_\_  
Church and location where godparent attends: \_\_\_\_\_
- I have a person in mind for being my confirmation sponsor:
  - Proposed sponsor's name \_\_\_\_\_  
Church and location where sponsor attends: \_\_\_\_\_
- I do not have a sponsor

### Marital Status & History

*The following questions will help us to understand if there may be any impediments to your becoming a Catholic, or receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and/or Eucharist. In addition, these questions will help us determine whether your former marriage, or your spouse's former marriage, will require you or your spouse to apply for determination of whether your or your spouse's former marriage was not spiritually valid (i.e., a declaration of nullity, or annulment). The annulment process in the Catholic Church does not seek to determine whether the marriage itself was civilly legal, but rather determine whether the conditions were such that the sacrament of Matrimony actually existed within the legal marriage. Even if you are unsure whether you want to become Catholic, we encourage you to speak with the OCIA director or the priest assisting with RCIA if you have been married previously.*

**Please be assured the information on these forms will remain confidential.**

Marital Status (circle one of the following):

Single    Engaged    Not married & living together    Married    Separated    Widow/widower    Divorced

1. If you are **engaged**:

- 1a. Name (of fiancée/fiancé): \_\_\_\_\_
- Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- City and State: \_\_\_\_\_
- Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cellular provider: \_\_\_\_\_
- Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Your fiancée/fiancé's contact information will be used in case we need to reach you but cannot.)*
- Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_
- Religious affiliation or Christian denomination: \_\_\_\_\_
- Tentative wedding date: \_\_\_\_\_

1b. Will this be your first marriage?  Yes  No

1c. Will this be your fiancée/fiancé's first marriage?  Yes  No

**(If No to either 1b or 1c, you must complete section 3 and/or 4 below, respectively, as applicable.)**

1d. Do you intend to be married in the Roman Catholic Church?  Yes  No

If Yes, and you **have consulted a priest**, please identify him; if you have not yet consulted a priest, please indicate that also: \_\_\_\_\_

***For the following, if they apply, you must provide a copy of marriage certificates, civil divorce decrees (if applicable), annulment decrees (if applicable)***

**2. If you are married:**

Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place of wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's denomination or religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's cellular provider: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Your spouse's contact information will be used in case we need to reach you but cannot.)*

Were **YOU** ever married before?  Yes  No (If Yes, complete section 3 below.)

Was your *current* SPOUSE, or fiancée/fiancé, married before?

Yes  No  Not sure (If Yes, complete **section 4** below.)

**3. YOUR previous marriage information:**

3a. How many times? \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please complete information immediately below about your former spouse/s.)**

**Your FIRST Spouse:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

3b(i). If "Yes", is your first spouse deceased?  Yes  No  Not sure

Date of death, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

3b(ii). If he/she is living:

What date and where was your wedding? \_\_\_\_\_

By whom were you married? \_\_\_\_\_

Was he/she a baptized Christian?  Yes  No  Not sure

Was he/she a Roman Catholic?  Yes  No  Not sure

Have YOU or HIM / HER ever applied for an annulment?  Yes  No  Not sure

If Yes, what was the outcome of the annulment process? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



4b(iii). Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Their SECOND Spouse:**  Not Applicable

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

4c(i). If 4a is answered "Yes", is your spouse's or fiancée/fiancé's second spouse deceased?

Yes  No  Not sure

Date of death, if known: \_\_\_\_\_

4c(ii). If the second spouse is living:

What date and where was their wedding? \_\_\_\_\_

By whom were they married? \_\_\_\_\_

Was he/she a baptized Christian?  Yes  No  Not sure

Was he/she a Roman Catholic?  Yes  No  Not sure

Has your current spouse, or your fiancée/fiancé, or his/her second spouse ever applied for an annulment of their second marriage?  Yes  No  Not sure

If Yes, what was the outcome of the annulment process? \_\_\_\_\_

4c(iii). Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## General Questions

While the below are general questions posed to you, please know that we always welcome questions about the Roman Catholic Faith and Church. So feel free to ask questions any time: during class, before or after class, by phone, by email, etc.

1. Why do you want to learn more about the Roman Catholic Faith?
2. What or who has led you to want to know more about the Roman Catholic Faith?
3. What are some of the questions you have at this time about the Roman Catholic Faith?
4. What are some of the concerns or problems you have with the Roman Catholic Church?

5. Please describe the types of religious-oriented studies you have had an opportunity to take part in, and describe your faith experiences in God.

6. What contact have you had to-date with the Roman Catholic Church?