

CONVALIDATION

“A convalidation is not simply a renewal of the previous intention to marry, but the creation of a valid marriage in the sight of the Christian community.”

USCCB

If you desire to have your civil marriage blessed by the Church, convalidation is the process you need to follow.

1

- Pray for your decision to have your marriage convalidated.
- Meet with your local parish priest or deacon (even if you plan to marry elsewhere) to discuss the best option for your convalidation.
- For information and to register, visit archny.org/ministries-and-offices/family-life/pcme
- Choose one of the following options that are required by the Archdiocese of New York:
 - Parish convalidation process
 - ALPHA Marriage Enrichment course
 - Archdiocese of New York Pre-Cana Day

2

- Meet with your priest or deacon, who will continue to accompany you.

3

- In addition to regular worship in your parish, consider joining one of the parish ministries using the gifts and talents given by God to serve the community.

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CONVALIDATION (cont.)

4

- Enjoy your convalidation ceremony.
- Continue to worship regularly in your parish and participate in parish ministries that will enhance your marriage.
- Go to the website at archny.org/family-life/pcme for marriage enrichment and evangelization opportunities.



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
FAMILY LIFE

The Marriage Catechumenate Team Office of Family Life

646-794-3185

Team Coordinator, Alessandra Carino

Pre-Cana and
Marriage Catechumenate Coordinator
Alessandra.Carino@archny.org

Theodore J. Musco

Director of the Office of Family Life
Theodore.Musco@archny.org

Kayla Beiter

Married Couples Evangelization Coordinator
Kayla.Beiter@archny.org

Laura Vicente Gomez

Parenting Formation Coordinator
and Spanish Pre-Cana Assistant
Laura.VicenteGomez2@archny.org

Carmen A. Luis

Office of Family Life Assistant
Carmen.Luis@archny.org



Preparing for Catholic Marriage



Pope Francis described marriage as:

“a project to be worked on together” and a “process of growth”.

(Amoris Laetitia, no. 218, 221)



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FAMILY LIFE

Congratulations on your decision to get married in the Catholic Church! We are excited to join you on this journey of faith and love.

The Archdiocesan Marriage Catechumenate offers a comprehensive program consisting of various components to prepare you for marriage. These include an online relationship inventory, online learning modules, and a Pre-Cana session, which can be attended in person or online using a hybrid model.

Marriage preparation is not limited to a single day; it is a process that allows you to explore the meaning and purpose of a Catholic marriage. It helps you discover how you can encounter God's love and life-giving presence in new and special ways. Throughout this process, your priest, deacon, family, friends, and the parish community will provide support. There's no need to worry or feel anxious. We are all here to assist.

The Pre-Cana portion of the Marriage Catechumenate is well-structured, offering several options for completion:

OPTION
1

Archdiocese of New York Marriage Preparation Program

- In English or Spanish
- An in-person full-day Saturday session or an on-demand session available during a week-long period for you to work on at your own pace and concluding with a Saturday one hour Zoom session.

OPTION
2

Catholic Engaged Encounter

- A weekend Christ-centered retreat

OPTION
3

Parish sponsored approved Pre-Cana session

Once you have chosen one of these options, here's how you can proceed:

1

- Begin by praying about your vocation to a Catholic marriage.
- Meet with your local parish priest or deacon (even if you plan to marry elsewhere) to discuss the wedding date, time, location, and other details.
- Complete any forms requested by the priest or deacon.

2

- Visit the Pre-Cana website at **archnyfamilylife.org** and complete the registration process including Pre-Cana fee payment. Regardless of the Pre-Cana option you choose, online registration on the Archdiocesan Marriage Preparation Portal is expected.

3

- Before attending the Pre-Cana session, and after consulting with your priest or deacon:
- Complete one of the marriage inventories: Catholic Couple Check-up or Prepare/Enrich (links provided once you have registered).
- Finish the Online Learning Modules (links provided once you have registered).
- It is highly recommended to participate in a Fertility Awareness Course either in-person or online (**archny.org/ministries-and-offices/family-life/family**).

4

- Attend the Archdiocesan approved Pre-Cana Session, either in-person, on-demand, at an approved parish, or a weekend retreat.
- Print your Certificate of Completion and present it to your priest or deacon.

5

- Schedule follow-up meetings with your priest or deacon to fulfill any remaining requirements.

6

- Enjoy your wedding day!
- Stay connected after your wedding by visiting the Archdiocese of New York Office of Family Life website for information and opportunities for married couples (**archny.org/ministries-and-offices/family-life/pcme**).



Important Information

If you plan to marry outside the Archdiocese, you must still meet with your local parish priest to ensure any necessary permissions or dispensations are obtained. Additionally, the proper documents must be sent to the diocese where you will be married. For more information, contact Canonical Services at 646-794-2935.