



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK  
FAMILY LIFE

To: Priests and Deacons  
From: Kathy Wither, Director of the Family Life Office  
Date: April 19, 2021  
Re: **CONVALIDATION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO LAUNCH IN MAY 2021**

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

As you know, due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Convalidation Awareness Campaign and the corresponding Convalidation/Re-Marriage preparation program was postponed until 2021. We are finally ready now to move forward and launch the campaign next month!

Later this month, Msgr. LaMorte will send out an email with a link to a clergy video that we recorded for you. This 15-minute video will include instructions and background on the Convalidation Awareness Campaign, as well as information about the archdiocesan Convalidation/Re-Marriage registration and preparation program (cost remains same - \$150).

Next month, and prior to the digital and social media campaign launch, every parish will receive English and Spanish tri-fold marketing pamphlets that have been developed for you to have on hand for your couples, or to put in your parish book racks. Prior to the launch date [specific date TBD], we will provide parishes with graphics/text to post on your own digital and social media channels.

Currently, civilly-married couples preparing for convalidation come to the regular English and Spanish marriage prep program, which includes a Pre-Cana day. Beginning this month, we have added two English-language Convalidation/Re-Marriage Prep days to the 2021 published schedule:

- Saturday, 9/18/21 (9am - 4:30pm) at Sacred Heart parish (Monroe)
- Saturday, 11/13/21 (9am - 4:30pm) in Westchester County (location to be finalized)

If a priest/deacon decides to send a couple to the archdiocesan program, our **recommended guidelines** for discerning which couples should participate in a **Convalidation/Re-Marriage Prep program (instead of a regular Marriage Prep/Pre-Cana program)** include:

- couples who have been **civilly married for over 3 years**
- couples **preparing for re-marriage** in the Catholic Church
- **'somewhat' older couples** (e.g., 45+) who are marrying for the first time

Convalidating Spanish-speaking couples should continue to register for the regular Marriage Prep/Pre-Cana program. You will hear more details about the Spanish convalidation programming in the clergy video.

Thank you for your support, and if you have questions, contact me at **646.794.3186** or via email at [dr.kathleen.wither@archny.org](mailto:dr.kathleen.wither@archny.org). You can also visit our website at [archny.org/family-life/](http://archny.org/family-life/).

Rejoicing with you in this Easter Season,

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