

Declaration of Nullity

COACHING SERVICES

Rose Sweet

welcome

MEET YOUR COACH

FIRST, I know the end of your civil marriage is or was more than difficult in a million ways.

SECOND, I'm here to guide you through:

- Considering IF you have grounds for annulment, or not,
- Properly and competently preparing and submitting your testimony in an annulment case,
- Empowering you to defend the marriage bond if your spouse has filed for nullity and you wish to contest.

I know you want to abide by Church teachings and do not want to displease Our Lord. I promise you're in good hands. Keep reading.



Rose Sweet



annulment...

...is properly called a "Declaration of Nullity. Issued by the Catholic Church, it does NOT "annul" a marriage. Why?

Every marriage is presumed to be built on an unbreakable VALID MARRIAGE BOND.

But if one or both of the parties (after civil divorce) offer sufficient, credible testimony to the contrary, the Church can issue a "Declaration of Nullity."

It says, *in effect*, that there were many BONDS that united the couple in shared life (social, civil, legal, financial, sexual, parental, et al) but something was seriously deficient with one or both of the parties' *consent* (the INTENT or ABILITY to enter INTO and live out marriage properly and fully).

Thus, the focus of the process is primarily on the time they said: "I do." What happened later in the relationship may speak to potential problems with their consent, or it may not.

Be prepared . . . the process is often painful.

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are you seeking an annulment?

EDUCATE YOURSELF

You will be petitioning the tribunal (a COURT of Church law) to declare with certainty that there was something seriously flawed with either the INTENT or CAPACITY of one or both of you to enter marriage:

Freely * Fully * Faithfully, and Fruitfully

No one has to prove the marriage bond was valid; under law, it is already presumed so.

The burden of proof of invalidity is on YOU, the Petitioner. You will need competent assistance.



IT'S NOT JUST PAPERWORK

As in a civil court trial, (no matter what side you are on) you must know what is admissible or not.

You must have some general understanding of the law so that you can present your testimony in **LIGHT OF THE GROUNDS.**

You need someone competent, skilled, and experienced at going with you into the past to explore and uncover painful, difficult truths.

That person must be committed to seeking the truth, no matter what it is.

You may not always find that person at your parish. **If so, contact me for guidance.**



IF YOU'RE DEFENDING YOUR MARRIAGE BOND

It's true: *your marriage bond is already presumed TO BE VALID.*

But if your spouse has petitioned for nullity, you still have a responsibility to be informed, to understand, and to at least be open to assisting the tribunal to uncover the fullness of truth.

While it may feel like another painful injustice, to actively participate will benefit everyone in the long run: you, your spouse, your family, and the whole Church...when truth prevails.

You may need skilled and competent annulment coaching, too.



will you get an annulment?

WHO KNOWS.

It's vital that, first, that sufficient time is spent *uncovering the fullness of the truth, exploring your history, digging more deeply for hidden issues, anticipating surprises, considering what your spouse might say or do along the way, where and—if you might have a case—how to find the best witnesses*. Only then can you make a prudent decision to proceed and how to build and best present your case to the judges.

You need and deserve expert coaching, your right under Canon Law (CIC 1481).



first steps

I

PRAY FOR HUMILITY

No one wants to dig up the painful past, but it is necessary to find the truth. **THIS IS NOT ABOUT YOU VERSUS THEM . . .** or who was the good guy/bad guy. It is about the truth, and Our Lord promises that the **TRUTH** will set us free.

READ MY BOOK

How to Understand and Petition for Your Decree of Nullity is simple and easy-to-read, available at rosesweet.com/store.

It includes a detailed list of all the signs that there may be grounds for nullity. Even if you are the "Respondent" in the case, stay informed and be open to the truth.

2

3

BEGIN AT THE PARISH

If you can, begin the process at your local parish. **DO NOT LET ANYONE SIMPLY HAND YOU THE PACKAGE AND SAY, "Here, fill this out."** You must be willing to understand, to be curious, and to ask questions. You need a qualified person's time, attention, and expertise.

DETERMINE GROUNDS

You must know *the crux of the case* so that you can present your testimony in the most effective and truthful way. An expert **MUST** spend time with you, **listen carefully to your story, ask probing and maybe even embarrassing questions, and PREPARE you for writing and submitting your testimony.** That's where I usually come in.

4

5



coaching services & fees

- 1** You'll first complete your narrative "testimony," and send it to me in a Word document. You'll use either the tribunal form or the sample narrative on my website. I will then invoice you.
- 2** Once the fees are paid, I will review, edit, and schedule our initial "Intake Interview" to go through your testimony; I'll ask more questions and gather additional information.
- 3** We will send the document back and forth until it is as complete as necessary for submission with the rest of your paperwork to the tribunal.
- 4** We'll also discuss: the process after submission, potential pitfalls, the Defender of the Bond, publication of the acts, selection of witnesses, talking to your adult children, and more. I'll walk with you through the whole process.

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next steps

1

CONTACT ME

If you still have questions, email them to me rose@rosesweet.com.

2

EMAIL YOUR NARRATIVE

If you already have your *narrative questionnaire* (part of the package the parish or tribunal will provide) complete it as best you can and email it to me (rose@rosesweet.vom). All of our communications are confidential. No forms yet? Use the "Sample Petitioner's Narrative" (Word doc) at the bottom of my web page

3

PAY THE INVOICE

I'll bill you through PayPal, a safe and secure method in which you can use your checking account or credit cards.

4

WAIT TO HEAR FROM ME

After payment is received, I'll send you a link to schedule our first 60 minute "Intake Interview," and away we will go!

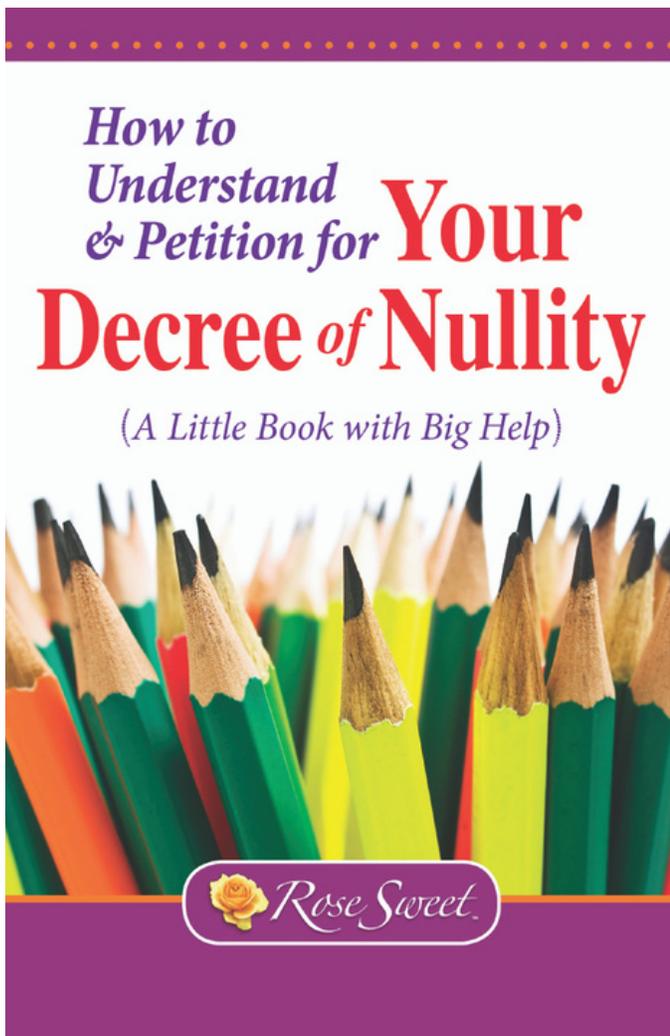


coach qualifications

- 1** I'm the author of a book on annulments: *How to Understand and Petition for your Decree of Nullity* (St Benedict Press/TAN Books).
- 2** I've coached hundreds of men and women in the annulment process, (both the Petitioner and the Respondent) for over ten years in dioceses across the US..
- 3** I've trained clergy and laity in the pastoral aspects of the annulment process in various dioceses, and have spoken on the subject at national Catholic conferences.
- 4** I've been through the annulment process myself. I know the fears, anxieties, and problems that arise. I have a sad history of divorce in my family and with God's grace, from it he's brought an international ministry to the separated, divorced, and remarried.
Deo gratias!

resources

LEARN MORE ABOUT CHURCH TEACHINGS ON MARRIAGE, SEPARATION, DIVORCE, ANNULMENT, AND MORE.



ANNULMENT BOOK

<https://rosesweet.com/store>



BLOG - ANNULMENT IS NOT THE ENEMY

<https://rosesweet.com/annulment-is-not-the-enemy/>



BLOG - IS IT OKAY TO SEPARATE

<https://rosesweet.com/is-it-ok-to-separate/>