**Nihil Obstat Information**

**All Nihil Obstat requests must be submitted to the Tribunal at least one month prior to a wedding date.**

The purpose of the *Nihil Obstat* is to confirm that all the steps required by the Catholic Church for a valid marriage to be contracted have been met by both parties.

All forms may be found on the Texas Catholic Conference website:

http://www.txcatholic.org/#!marriage-forms/c11d

The *Nihil Obstat* package must include:

- The *Nihil Obstat Requirements Checklist and Addendum Sheet*
- *Copies* of the items listed on the checklist (*Original documents* required for a marriage outside of the diocese)

**Required for all Marriages**

- Proof of *marriage preparation*, from the pastoral agent preparing the couple
- A Letter of Good Standing for all visiting priests

**Required for Prior Marriage(s)**

- In the case of a Declaration of Invalidity: If there were restrictions (monitum, vetitum) placed on either/or both parties, the restrictions need to have been fulfilled before a *Nihil Obstat* request is submitted. *Clergy must request the Decree of Invalidity from the Tribunal before the Nihil Obstat is submitted.*

After reviewing the submitted paperwork, if the marriage is to occur within the Diocese of Fort Worth, we will grant the *Nihil Obstat* and send a decree to the parish. If the marriage is to occur outside of the diocese, we will send all paperwork and the Nihil Obstat decree to our Chancery for the Bishop’s permission, and then they will forward the paperwork to the correct Diocese.

If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Reyes, Ecclesiastical Notary at 817/945-9431.

*If the packet is incomplete it will not be accepted and will be returned to the parish regardless of how close to the wedding date it may be.*

Very Rev. D. Timothy Thompson, JCL
Judicial Vicar

March 2018
Request prepared by __________________________________________________________

Parish ________________________________________________________________

City ________________________________________________________________

Phone Number __________________________________________________________

Name & Signature of Clergy ________________________________________________

Groom’s Name __________________________________________________________

Bride’s Name __________________________________________________________

**Nihil Obstat Requirements Checklist**

**Required for all Marriages:**

- _____ Prenuptial Questionnaire, including for convalidations (TCC Form V)
- _____ Baptismal or Profession of Faith Records, for Groom and/or Bride, if Catholic, issued within last 6 months with notations
- _____ Proof of Baptism for the baptized non-Catholic
- _____ Petition for Dispensation or Permission, if applicable (TCC Form III)
- _____ Witness Affidavit of Freedom to Marry (TCC Form II), 2 for Bride / 2 for Groom
- _____ Proof that marriage preparation has been completed – See Addendum
  - _____ Pre-Cana or Today Tomorrow & Forever Certificate
  - _____ Fully Engaged Comparison Results Sheet or Sponsor Couple Feedback Form
  - _____ NFP Certificate
- _____ Copy of Marriage License
- _____ Letter of Good Standing for any priests not of the Diocese of Fort Worth
- _____ Marriage to take place **within** The Diocese of Fort Worth
- _____ Marriage to take place **outside** The Diocese of Fort Worth/ Provide complete name and address of parish and name of the diocese.

**Additionally required for persons with a prior Marriage(s):**

- _____ Decree(s) of Declaration of Invalidity, for any previous marriage(s) for either or both parties, **AND/OR**
- _____ Decree(s) of Lack of Canonical Form, for any previous marriage(s) for either or both parties

Incomplete packets will not be accepted and will be returned no matter how close to the wedding date it may be. **A Nihil Obstat will not be granted**

March 2018
Proof of Marriage Preparation Addendum
For
Engaged Couples

Groom’s Name__________________________________________________________

Bride’s Name___________________________________________________________

Theological Formation
In Ft Worth, Diocesan Pre-Cana Class, or online class from www.catholicmarriageprep.com is required. However, if a couple is preparing in another Diocese their equivalent will suffice.
  Date Completed________________________

Life Skills Formation
In Ft. Worth the Fully Engaged Sponsor Couple Program is required. If a couple is preparing in another diocese an equivalent of a premarital inventory such as Prepare/Enrich or FOCCUS will suffice.
  Date Completed________________________

Natural Family Planning
This needs to be a full course consisting of a minimum of 3 classes and not just an introduction.
  Method______________________________
  Date Completed_______________________
  If not completed, please explain.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

March 2018
Proof of Marriage Preparation Addendum
For
Convalidation

Groom’s Name______________________________________________________________

Bride’s Name______________________________________________________________

Theological Formation

Today, Tomorrow and Forever or Jesus Te Invita al Sacramento de Matrimonio.

Date Completed________________________

Life Skills Formation

Fully Engaged Sponsor Couple Program for Couples seeking Convalidation.

Date Completed________________________

Natural Family Planning

This needs to be a full course consisting of a minimum of 3 classes and not just an introduction.

Method______________________________

Date Completed________________________

If not completed, please explain.

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________