

GUIDE SHEET FOR PERSONAL HISTORY

Please answer all questions in as much detail as possible. When you finish, please sign your history and return it to:

The Metropolitan Tribunal
The Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
328 West Kellogg Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55102-1997

1. Describe your upbringing and family life emphasizing:
 - What is your family makeup and how did that impact your upbringing?
 - What are the significant aspects or events of your childhood?
 - Describe the example of marriage you witnessed in your parents or caregivers.
2. Describe your spouse's upbringing and family life emphasizing the same areas as above.
3. Describe how your relationship developed, including:
 - What was your initial attraction and impression of your spouse?
 - How did you respect and treat each other?
 - How well did you communicate and how did you resolve conflict?
 - What were the causes of any major breakups, if there were any?
4. Describe your decision to marry, including:
 - Why did you decide to marry?
 - What pressures or influences were a part of your decision or did you feel obligated for any reason?
 - Were there any conditions placed on the marriage and what were they?
 - What were the reactions of parents, family and friends to your decision?
 - How mature and ready were you to enter marriage with your spouse?
5. Describe your intentions for marriage:
 - How did you understand marriage to be a lifelong commitment? Does anything justify divorce?
 - How did you understand faithfulness to be a part of your marriage?
 - What was your attitude toward children in marriage?
 - How did you understand marriage to be a sacred union?
 - What do you remember of your marriage preparation program?
 - What did you expect marriage to be?
 - Did you discuss these areas together?
6. Describe your marriage, including:
 - What role did religion or spirituality play within your relationship?
 - How was there equality in areas such as decision making, parental responsibilities and trust?
 - How did you share everything together as husband and wife?
 - How did each of you make the other your first priority in life?
 - How did alcohol or drug use affect your relationship?
 - Was there any verbal, emotional or physical abuse and when did it begin?
 - Did either spouse's personality change significantly shortly after the wedding and, if so, how?
 - Did you seek any counseling to try to save the marriage and how did it help?
 - How did the divorce come about?
 - Why do you think your marriage is or is not a sacramental union?
7. Describe your life since the separation and divorce, including:
 - Have you experienced healing, personal growth or spiritual growth? If yes, how?
 - How is each spouse fulfilling his/her parental responsibilities to the children of this marriage?
 - Why are you seeking this declaration of nullity? (For Petitioner's only)
8. Were you involved in a previous or subsequent marriage? Was your spouse?
9. Are there any further insights or comments that you would like to add?