

DIOCESE OF DALLAS

Celebration of Marriage - Location

POLICY ON LOCATION FOR CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGES

Marriages involving **two baptized Christians**; that is, two baptized Catholics or a baptized Catholic with someone baptized in another faith expression, are to be celebrated in a Catholic Church. In the case when a cleric grants a dispensation from canonical form, he should ensure that the marriage will be celebrated in a sacred location, a place in which religious services normally are held. For liceity, a permission for mixed marriage must be granted for a baptized Catholic to marry another baptized Christian.

Marriages involving a baptized Catholic with a **non-baptized person** “not observant” in any established religious faith are to be celebrated in a Catholic Church. In the case when a cleric grants a dispensation from canonical form, he should ensure that the marriage will be celebrated in a sacred location, a place in which religious services normally are held. For validity a dispensation from the

impediment of disparity of cult must also be granted for a baptized Catholic to marry a non-baptized person.

Marriages involving a baptized Catholic with a **non-baptized person** “observant” in another established religious faith; that is, a Hindu, Jew, Muslim, etc., or with an avowed Atheist, are to be celebrated in a Catholic Church. In the case when a cleric grants a dispensation from canonical form he should ensure that the marriage will be celebrated in a sacred location, a place in which religious services normally are held, or, with permission from the Tribunal, in some other suitable place. Catholic clergy (priest or deacon) may participate in reading from Sacred Scripture, perhaps with a brief reflection witnessing to the Christian understanding of marriage, and/or the granting of the Nuptial Blessing proper to the marriage of a Catholic and a non-baptized person. However, in such circumstances, Catholic clergy (priest or deacon) may never celebrate the Catholic Rite of Matrimony following or preceding a civil marriage ceremony or the ceremony of another religion. For validity a dispensation from disparity of cult must also be granted for a baptized Catholic to marry a non-baptized person.

Therefore, in regard to locations for marriages:

1. Two Catholics should marry in a Catholic Church.
2. A Catholic and another baptized Christian should marry in a Catholic Church or, with a dispensation from canonical form, in another sacred location, a place in which religious services are normally held.
3. A Catholic and a non-baptized person “not observant” in any established religious faith should marry in the Catholic Church or, with a dispensation from canonical form and a dispensation from the impediment of disparity of cult, in another sacred location.
4. A Catholic and a non-baptized person “observant” in another established religious faith; that is, a Hindu, Jew, Muslim, etc., or an avowed Atheist, should marry in the Catholic Church or, with a dispensation from canonical form and a dispensation from the impediment of disparity of cult, in another sacred location or, with permission from the Tribunal, in some other suitable place.

Should there be any questions concerning the above, please contact the Tribunal.