

PETITION FOR PERMISSION TO COHABIT AS BROTHER AND SISTER

This petition may be used **only if** (1) validation is impossible; (2) separation is extremely difficult; (3) there is no danger of scandal; and (4) danger of incontinence is precluded by the advanced age of the parties, serious illness, impotence, or some similar factor. Each petition should be accompanied by a letter from the priest commenting on the above points and presenting arguments in favor of and/or against granting the permission.

Name of man: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of woman: \_\_\_\_\_

Most Reverend Bishop,

We, the undersigned, realizing that our marriage is invalid in the sight of God and that we have no marriage rights whatsoever, but finding it extremely difficult to separate, humbly request permission to live together as brother and sister, such that the mere fact of our cohabitation would not give rise to the presumption that we are obstinately persevering in manifest grave sin, thereby allowing us to be admitted to Holy Communion, with due regard for the norm of law, the good of the Church, and the reverence owed to that Most Holy Sacrament.

PROMISES (to be made separately by each party in the presence of the other party and witnessed by the priest)

Realizing the sacredness of an oath, the gravity of the crime of perjury, and my obligation before God in this matter, I solemnly swear:

1. That under no circumstance will I ever attempt the conjugal act or other acts in violation of perfect continence with my present partner.  
*(numbers 2-4 are omitted for non-Catholics, unless they are considering becoming Catholic)*
2. That if I violate this promise I will not approach Holy Communion until I have been absolved through sacramental confession; and I further understand that, depending on the circumstances, the confessor may judge that I cannot be absolved until I have separated from my present partner.
3. That I will receive Communion only in churches where my marital status is not known among parishioners.
4. That I will explain my status to my pastor, spiritual advisor, or confessor, and will report to him at least once a year on the observance of my promise.
5. That I will treat this matter confidentially and otherwise exercise caution to avoid causing scandal by the use of this permission.

So help me God and these Holy Gospels, on which I place my hand.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (man)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (woman)

Priest: \_\_\_\_\_

Date and place: \_\_\_\_\_

PARISH  
SEAL

PETITION FOR PERMISSION TO COHABIT AS BROTHER AND SISTER

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE MAN (interview separately, alone, and under oath)(attach civil marriage license and baptismal certificate)

- 1) Name and address: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) Date and place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Religion \_\_\_\_\_ (If Catholic) When did you last receive Communion? \_\_\_\_\_  
(If non-Catholic) Are you interested in becoming Catholic? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Have you ever requested this permission before? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_  
What was the response? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) When, where, and before whom did you attempt your present marriage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6) At the time, about how many people knew that the marriage was invalid? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Names and ages of the children born of your present union \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8) How long have you lived in the area? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) How many of your friends and neighbors know that your marriage is invalid? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) How many people at your parish know that you marriage is invalid? \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) Why are you unwilling to separate? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12) (If ill) What is the nature of your illness? \_\_\_\_\_  
(If wife is ill) What is the nature of your wife's illness? \_\_\_\_\_
- 13) How many times have you been married? \_\_\_\_\_
- 14) When, where, and before whom did you attempt your previous marriage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 15) Is your former spouse still living? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, please give the following data:
  - a. Maiden name of spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_  
Was she baptized at the time of your wedding? \_\_\_\_\_ Has she since been baptized? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How many children were born of this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ Where do they now live? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What was the cause of separation and divorce? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. When and where was the divorce procured? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Present name and address of your former spouse? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Has she remarried? \_\_\_\_\_ When and where? \_\_\_\_\_

(If there were multiple prior marriages, questions 14 and 15 should be answered for each marriage. Attach additional sheets as necessary)

- 16) Are you convinced that you can keep your promise to live as brother and sister? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why do you say so? \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) Have you tried to live as brother and sister? \_\_\_\_\_ For how long? \_\_\_\_\_
- 18) Would you be able to support your wife if you were to separate, or would she be able to support herself? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PETITION FOR PERMISSION TO COHABIT AS BROTHER AND SISTER

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR THE WOMAN (interview separately, alone, and under oath)(attach marriage license and baptismal certificate)

1. Name and address: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Date and place of birth: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Religion (If Catholic) When did you last receive Communion? \_\_\_\_\_  
(If non-Catholic) Are you interested in becoming Catholic? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Have you ever requested this permission before? \_\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_  
What was the response? \_\_\_\_\_
5. When, where, and before whom did you attempt your present marriage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. At the time, about how many people knew that the marriage was invalid? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Names and ages of the children born of your present union \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How long have you lived in the area? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How many of your friends and neighbors know that your marriage is invalid? \_\_\_\_\_
10. How many people at your parish know that you marriage is invalid? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Why are you unwilling to separate? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. (If ill) What is the nature of your illness? \_\_\_\_\_  
(If husband is ill) What is the nature of your husband's illness? \_\_\_\_\_
13. How many times have you been married? \_\_\_\_\_
14. When, where, and before whom did you attempt your previous marriage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. Is your former spouse still living? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, please give the following data:
  - a. Name of spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion at the time of the marriage: \_\_\_\_\_  
Was he baptized at the time of your wedding? \_\_\_\_\_ Has he since been baptized? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How many children were born of this marriage? \_\_\_\_\_ Where do they now live? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What was the cause of separation and divorce? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. When and where was the divorce procured? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Present name and address of your former spouse? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Has he remarried? \_\_\_\_\_ When and where? \_\_\_\_\_  
(If there were multiple prior marriages, questions 14 and 15 should be answered for each marriage. Attach additional sheets as necessary)
16. Are you convinced that you can keep your promise to live as brother and sister? \_\_\_\_\_  
Why do you say so? \_\_\_\_\_
17. Have you tried to live as brother and sister? \_\_\_\_\_ For how long? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Would your husband be able to support you if you were separated, or would you be able to support yourself? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_