

Overview

Code of Canon Law

Canon 1055 §1 The marriage covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of their whole life, and which of its own very nature is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children, has, between the baptized, been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.

§2 Consequently, a valid marriage contract cannot exist between baptised persons without its being by that very fact a sacrament.

Canon 1071.1 Except in a case of necessity, **NO ONE** is to assist without the permission of the local Ordinary at:

§1 a marriage of vagi (transients);

§2 a marriage which cannot be recognized by the civil law or celebrated in accordance with it;

§3 a marriage of a person for whom a previous union has created natural obligations towards a third party or towards children;

§4 a marriage of a person who has notoriously rejected the catholic faith;

§5 a marriage of a person who is under censure;

§6 a marriage of a minor whose parents are either unaware of it or are reasonably opposed to it;

§7 a marriage to be entered by proxy, as mentioned in canon 1105.

Canon 1071.2 The local Ordinary is not to give permission to assist at the marriage of a person who has notoriously rejected the Catholic faith unless, with the appropriate adjustments, the norms of canon 1125 have been observed.

My state of affairs – which does apply to me?

- Any Baptized Catholic, who has been instructed in regards to the Holy Eucharist and believes and is of the age of reason, and is free of a mortal sin – can receive the Holy Eucharist.
- Per Canon Law, Catholics can only marry a Catholic – in case of a mixed marriage (one Catholic, one Christian, canon 1124) the permission of the Bishop is needed.
- Married in the Catholic Church - all can receive the Holy Eucharist.
- Married in the Catholic Church and being separated for a while – all can receive the Holy Eucharist.
- Was married by Justice of the peace only, or was married in another church – no one can receive the Holy Eucharist.
- Living together without the Churches blessing – no one can receive the Holy Eucharist.
- Got civil divorce and living alone - all can receive the Holy Eucharist.
- Getting an annulment - one is free to marry again in the Church (EVERY living-together relationship of the past has to be looked at by the Church).
- After marriage in the Catholic Church and after divorce, without annulment – one is barred from being married in the Catholic Church again.
- After divorce – one lives together with another or gets married in another church – no one can receive the Holy Eucharist.

Where do I stand?

Just because a person is not able to receive Holy Communion, that does not mean that this is the end of the world. So, where do I fit within the Catholic Church? Just because one is barred from receiving our LORD in the Eucharist, there is much one can do.

One ought to go to holy Mass every Sunday (Saturday) and holy day of obligation. One is just not able to receive Holy Communion. One should make a spiritual Communion as seen below or with similar words:

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

If one comes up at Holy Communion time, instead of receiving our good LORD in the Eucharist, one should place one hand across his/her chest and receive a blessing instead.

We can always pray, and we should. The Rosary is one of the best prayers, maybe one is able to pray it with the spouse.

One can participate in a Bible study, Adult Education, or any other Church activity, especial social functions. One should be part of the Community in any way one can.

What can one NOT do:

- Receive Holy Communion
- Go to Confession
- Receive any of the other sacraments.

NB (Nota Bene): in case of an emergency – coming close to death's doorstep, PLEASE CALL A PRIEST AND ALL THE RESTRICTIONS CAN AND WILL BE LIFTED BY THE PRIEST IN DANGER OF DEATH. In such a situation one can receive Confession, Absolution, Anointing of the Sick, Confirmation (if one has not been confirmed) and Holy Communion. PLEASE DO CALL A PRIEST in danger of death asap!