



Diocesan Policy Regarding Mixed Marriages

1. A 'Mixed Marriage' (i.e. *Disparity of Cult*) is constituted when one of the spouses-to-be does not belong to the Assyrian Church of the East (= ACOE). That is, that the person is not baptized in the ACOE and is not currently a member in good standing in the Church. Any marriage with a non-baptized person is not recognized by the Church *ipso facto*.
2. The non-ACOE spouse must provide the following documentation at the time of application:
 - a. A valid baptismal certificate from his/her Church of affiliation;
 - b. A signed/dated letter by the priest of the Church of affiliation declaring that the person in question is not married in that Church and may contract marriage;
 - c. In the case of a divorced partner, a true copy of the court judgment of civil divorce and a copy of the original marriage certificate from the Church of affiliation.
3. If the non-ACOE spouse belongs to a non-apostolic Church, the status of the recognition of the baptism of said partner is solely at the discretion of the Diocesan Bishop, in accord with ACOE canon law.
4. If it is deemed that the non-ACOE partner must be validly baptized, he/she must go through the catechization process of being taught the faith of the Church, in preparation for baptism/Chrismation. The newly catechized/baptized partner must commit to be a faithful member of the Church, observing her doctrines and disciplines with faith and ardor.
5. The non-ACOE spouse (whether catechized or not), must agree to baptize and rear the children in the faith of the ACOE.
6. Both the ACOE and non-ACOE spouse are to undergo counseling and canonical preparation for marriage with the respective parish priest.
7. Both the ACOE and non-ACOE spouse must apply in writing (utilizing the approved diocesan Pre-Nuptial Investigation form) for having their marriage blessed in the Church. To this application must be attached all supporting documents, and it must be signed and approved by the Diocesan Bishop. Until approved, the parish priest may NOT bless the marriage in question.
8. In the case of a non-ACOE spouse who has been divorced and is now marrying for the second time, he/she MUST have a valid declaration of nullity of marriage (or, dissolution of marriage) from his/her Church or priest, if the person had his/her former marriage blessed in Church. If this person only had a civil marriage, then a valid declaration of nullity of marriage/divorce from a civil court is sufficient. However, the adjudication of such cases lies with the Diocesan Bishop in accord with the ACOE canon laws regarding re-marriage.