

Quick Start Program Feedback

The Tribunal's Quick Start Program was informative to answer all of my questions about getting an annulment..it was a good central location...I was glad the brochure was sent to my home parish and also put into our parish bulletin...It was great to have it published in the Universe Bulletin...Due to the Quick Start Program meetings, it made it easier for me to finally pursue one...[the initial meeting] finalized my complete understanding on getting an annulment. Thank you Tribunal.

The information in this brochure was okay, but good to the point that it sparked interest to go on the website for additional information...I came into this meeting [individual meeting to present case], not knowing what to expect. I left [with a] feeling of calmness & peace...I think that it should have been a requirement of ALL [emphasis in original] parishes to publish these meetings in their bulletins. *THANK YOU [emphasis in original] for doing this making it okay without shame to go through this process.

I didn't even know that Catholics with non-church marriages needed annulments...Keep trying to make this process more accessible; by that I mean less intimidating, no necessarily easier.

Very thorough and efficient – kind and caring persons helping the process.

The information that was most helpful was the FAQ pertaining to “can divorced Catholics receive the sacraments.” That was a question that had me very confused before I attended this class...My individual meeting gave me a good indication of specific milestones that will be coming down the pike, and it also helped clarify the entire annulment process.

I thought the program was set up great. Good step by step information and there was always someone to help if there was a question.

Everything presented was excellent and beneficial especially in talking about choosing witnesses...The article by Bishop Lennon was helpful in thinking about my past relationship and its short comings...Everyone involved was helpful and put a lot of my nervousness at ease...Thank you for getting me motivated to pursue this.

The part about children was also helpful. That is very important to many people...Everyone has been so kind and helpful. Thank you for your help and understanding.

The explanation of what the Church believes about annulments got rid of misguided info. that I had previously...Keep this going. It made it easier to know how to get started and not put it off for years to come!

The information that was presented was concise, it explained the steps involved and what I needed to get done in order to start this process...The individual meeting was very helpful and put me at ease. I am confident I provided the documents needed and thorough

enough answers to the 12 questions that my case will be heard...I really think this program is wonderful!! The process is intimidating – the seminar and the individual meeting put me at ease. THANK YOU!!

The person I met was very calming and reassuring. It's nice to see a "face" with a member of the tribunal. When I thought of "tribunal", I think of a bunch of old priests who are out of touch with daily life.

I was apprehensive and had a bad feeling beforehand...I am reassured now...After being divorced twenty-six years this program got me interested enough to try.

It was extremely helpful...I felt as though the process would be grueling on me emotionally. Not at all what I thought.

Very impressed with the organizational skills at the individual meeting. Felt comfortable and my questions were all answered...Thank you so much for this opportunity to move forward with this process easier than in the past.

The whole brochure was very helpful and eased my mind with answers to questions that I did not know for sure...The presentation was very helpful for understanding what information the Tribunal was looking for in regards to these issues...helped me fill out the forms correctly and bring in what was needed for tonight [individual meeting]...Keep it going because it was what I needed to get the process going.

The general meeting was very informative...It was good for what was expected and very honest. I liked that we were informed to be honest [emphasis in the original] and not make out our former spouse to be the bad guy...I liked the article by Bishop Lennon. I never looked at marriage the manner that he broke it apart. This article helped me to realize that much of what he discussed regarding marriage – I lacked in mine...I had started this well over a year ago. I had started answering the 36 questions but not in depth. These 11 questions were just as difficult but allowed me to do into more detail for each one because they seemed more pertinent and there were less of them. This is not an easy process, but 11 is better than 36.

I was not sure what to expect, but I was glad to have someone to talk to in person instead of just mailing it in...I think this is a great program that will encourage divorced Catholics to finally apply for an annulment, since the process is less intimidating to start.

I think the most helpful thing was the feeling that we are not outcasts and that the Church wants to help us put things in order.

This is something that I have procrastinated for years. The two week deadline was what I needed to jump start me...I was apprehensive [about the individual meeting] but was met with friendliness and kindness.

I liked that the process was explained and the use of the "finding the truth"...I was very sure

this would be hear and embarrassing. It wasn't.

The individual meeting was very direct to my particular case and put me quite at ease.

Everything was very helpful. I am non-Catholic but was helped to understand a lot about annulment process...with people openly asking questions it helped to answer a lot of my questions...everyone was kind and open.

The process of healing [emphasis in original] is what takes place in an annulment. This was stressed and I hope will prove to be true...[at the individual meeting] less emphasis was placed on the testimony. Relevant gaps in my information/people were dealt tiwht but also some one-on-one counseling with staff was extremely helpful.

How important it is to be married in the church. I've been married by a judge with my wife now for almost 12 years and can't wait to be married for real in the church.

The subject of how it impacts my children [was helpful]...Keep doing an outstanding job helping people heal and find their way back to Christ.

Encouragement, making the process streamlined and assistance, contact phone numbers, and the cheerful healthy attitude wanting to help...That our children are not considered illegitimate as we thought they would.

All the information in the packet was helpful...it was easy to follow and I was easily able to understand the next steps I had to take. The checklist was helpful...I was glad that I had brought everything that was needed and that I got a positive response from those that looked at my case...made the process easier than I thought it might be.

Helped me to understand more the Church's position on invalidating a marriage. Contract vs. covenant, etc...Everyone was so friendly and caring.

The meeting was organized, painless and gave me hope...Keep up the good work.

Having terms clearly and concisely defined helped tremendously...I thought the general meeting was very helpful...specifically with respect to the fact that the Tribunal is more interested in the time frame before the marriage. I changed my witness list because of that knowledge...For me, this quick start program was a God-send. I had already talked to my priest about getting the invalidation but had been really struggling with the questions...barely able to answer them, crying, sad, and upset re-living it. This program gave me a more manageable task and a deadline to keep. Because of that I was more able to analytically approach the questions instead of re-living everything emotionally. I do think I would have been one of those petitioners that would have taken years to complete the full set of questions. Thank you for offering this program!

The general meeting was outstanding. The presenter was very pleasant – didn't make me feel like a second class citizen for being there and was very knowledgeable. She explained

everything in great detail. I left the meeting feeling that I had all the information I needed to start this process...I found my meeting this evening [individual meeting] to be very helpful. They were so kind and supportive and were genuinely interested in assisting me. I didn't feel like I was being judged over my statement which was comforting. They made it as "painless" as this process can be.

Presenting the Quick Start close to home encourages people and doesn't frighten them because the tribunal is downtown. Neighborhood meetings are more personal.

I had a lot of misinformation about this that it helped clarify...The meeting was very good...the staff was most helpful...especially not looking for any type of retribution on the other person...I believe the staff today [individual meeting] is dedicated to making sure this whole process is done with respect and the proper care.

I was touched by the loving and welcoming tone and atmosphere of the general meeting and the Tribunal staff. Thank you!

Coming into the process, I questioned how you can say my marriage never happened and questioned if I wanted to go through the process. It helped me to see it explained that the declaration addressed whether or not the bond of marriage, as the Catholic Church sees it, ever came into being. It's not trying to say I was never married...questions that were asked by all the people attending the "Quick Start" group meeting, not only answered my questions, but answered questions I hadn't even thought of yet...Thank you for reaching out. I don't know how long I would have put off doing this if I had to contact you on my own. I never thought of this as a healing process. I can see already that it will be.

I appreciated the section on Catholic people who are remarried still being members of the Church. My sister told me I was excommunicated! The most helpful information was that you were all here to help us become whole in the Church again; that we were all God's children and he wants us back...I just suggest you keep this up! We started the process many years ago and it was so long and involved, we just gave up. This "quick start" program is truly a Godsend!

I did not understand the process that I had to go through till now. It all makes sense now and I can understand why the process takes so long.

I would like to say that if it wasn't for this process, I might have not completed this annulment. I hope this Quick Start program stays with us. It definitely brings light to a dark time people's lives.