

Dear Petitioner,

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Raleigh is pleased to have this opportunity to be of service to you. Realizing your possible concerns about the process, we promise you our continued help and support throughout the process you are about to begin.

The cost of processing a marriage case continues to rise along with the cost of other goods and services. Postage, printing, employee salaries and benefits all show a gradual increase each year. Part of the increase is due to the fact that the Raleigh Tribunal now processes many more cases than a few years ago.

It is estimated that the actual cost of processing a formal case is about \$1000. Because the Bishop does not want a Petitioner to bear the full cost, the Tribunal is heavily subsidized by the Diocese of Raleigh through the generous contributions of the Catholic laity of the Diocese, most of whom do not benefit from the Tribunal's services. As the Diocese continues to grow and more demands are put on these funds, it is imperative that the Tribunal do everything possible to increase the level of contributions from those who do use its services.

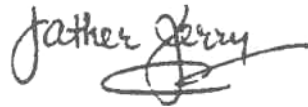
The Petitioner in a formal nullity case is asked to contribute \$450 toward the processing cost. Of this amount, \$150 **must** be sent to the Court of Appeals in Atlanta when an affirmative decision is

submitted for confirmation as is required by Church law. This leaves only \$300 to cover direct costs within the Raleigh Tribunal.

Please review the Suggested Schedule of Contributions. It is designed to spread your contribution over the period required to process your case. On the reverse of the Schedule is a form inviting your response. Please complete this form and return it with your completed questionnaire / narrative.

The Tribunal's services are available to all in justice, and we ask that, in justice, each Petitioner do what he or she can to assist with the costs incurred. *However, no one should fail to pursue the process because of limited finances.* At the same time, please know the importance of your financial assistance as we continue to respond to all who seek our services.

Sincerely yours,



Very Reverend Girard M. Sherba, J.C.D.
Judicial Vicar

Suggested Schedule of Contributions:

Please consider the following schedule of contributions and record your response on the following form which is to be returned to the Tribunal along with your completed questionnaire / narrative and witness sheet.

\$100 when your completed questionnaire / narrative is returned to the Tribunal;

\$100 when you are notified that the Raleigh Tribunal has formally accepted your case;

\$100 when you are notified of the grounds;

\$150 when you are notified that an affirmative decision has been rendered by the Raleigh Tribunal and is to be sent on mandatory appeal to Atlanta.

The above amounts are suggested minimums. A petitioner may make a larger contribution or send the suggested contribution in full at any time during the process.

To the Tribunal of Raleigh:

I have reviewed the Suggested Schedule of Contributions and believe I can contribute toward the cost of processing my case as indicated below. (Please check the appropriate option.)

____ At this time, I believe I can contribute according to the Suggested Schedule.

____ I am able to contribute the \$450, but prefer to do so according to the following schedule. (Please indicate amounts and frequency of your contributions):

____ At this time, I anticipate difficulty contributing toward the cost of processing my case for the following reason:

Signature of the Petitioner *Date*

Please make check payable to Diocese of Raleigh. Detach and return this form to the Tribunal along with your completed questionnaire / narrative and witness sheet.

Suggested Schedule

Of Contributions

Tribunal

Diocese of Raleigh

***For more information,
please write to:***

Tribunal
Diocese of Raleigh
2401 Crusader Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606-2120

Or call: (919) 821-9700