

## IF YOU ARE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED, THE CHURCH CARES ABOUT YOU!

### Recovery Ministry to Separated and Divorced Catholics

*'You are not alone'*



*The Lord is your guard and your shade ... Psalm 121*

Divorce Recovery Ministry  
(213) 637-7249  
jmonell@la-archdiocese.org

*Divorce has touched nearly every Catholic family in America. It is a painful process that affects every facet of human existence, a process in which many are hurt.*

*Separation and divorce are difficult and usually cause grievous losses, yet this can be a time filled with potential for vibrant new growth and responsiveness to grace.*

*The Synod Fathers noted that "special discernment is indispensable for the pastoral care of those who are separated, divorced or abandoned. Respect needs to be shown especially for the sufferings of those who have unjustly endured separation, divorce or abandonment, or those who have been forced by maltreatment from a husband or a wife to interrupt their life together."*

*- Pope Francis, AMORIS LAETITIA (The Joy of Love), Chapter 242*

*The mission of the Office of Family Life is to serve families in all ways. Separated and Divorced Catholics and their children are an integral part of who we are as family. Therefore, we urge everyone involved in pastoral ministry to support, in a visible and caring way, all those in need of healing and recovery from a separation or divorce. The Office of Family Life is here to assist you by providing training and resources.*

*Julie Auzenne*

*Separated and Divorced Consultant, Office of Family Life  
(213) 637-7249  
jmonell@la-archdiocese.org*

*website: [www.la-archdiocese.org/org/familylife/divorce](http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/familylife/divorce)*

## SEPARATED & DIVORCED CATHOLIC MINISTRY

### VISION:

A faith family where Catholics suffering from broken relationships will find a welcome home throughout the Archdiocese.

### MISSION:

To be a Catholic Faith resource of spiritual help for families that are hurting because of broken relationships.

### PHILOSOPHY:

We are a concerned people on a healing journey toward healthy relationships, who are available as sources of strength for others. While we are working hard at getting our "houses in order," we also seek the fulfillment of Jesus' promise: "that my joy may be yours, and your joy may be complete." Our energies are directed toward supporting, helping, enabling and empowering each other in that journey. We wish to belong fully to our Faith Family, to be a gift that inspires and a lesson by which others may learn and grow.

### GOALS:

Our goal is to become a source of spiritual strength and wisdom; to process the grief; to ease the pain; to give comfort and hope to those recovering from separation, divorce or death of a spouse.

### Spiritual Director:

Fr. Patrick J. Hill, MA, JCL, DMin  
(213) 637-7889

## PEER TO PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

These groups provide:

- Hope that there is a life after divorce
- A place to come and share your story
- Help in how a once-married person functions within the Church
- Available resources to help in the process of recovery
- A place to come and learn from others
- A place to further the spiritual, emotional, educational and social welfare of Separated and Divorced Catholics and their families.



## ON GOING SUPPORT GROUPS

### OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS REGION:

••••• Wednesdays •••••

### PHOENIX MINISTRY

St. Monica, Santa Monica (Meets on Wednesday 7:00pm-8:30pm)  
<http://stmonica.net/ministries/pastoral-care/phoenix-ministry-divorce-support>

- Delis Alejandro (310) 566-1530  
delis@stmonica.net
- Steven Ministry (310) 566-1575

*Please call for schedule*

## SANTA BARBARA REGION:

### NEW HORIZONS

**St. Louis de Montfort**, Santa Maria (please call for Dates & Time)

- Jerry Kipper (895) 938-5338

**Padre Serra Parish**, Camarillo (1st & 3rd Tuesday,  
San Fernando Room 7:00 - 8:30pm)

- Jett Clyne jettclyne@gmail.com
- Teresa Runyon (805) 482-6417, ext, 322  
teresa@padreserra.org

## SAN FERNANDO REGION:

••••• Tuesdays •••••

### NEW LEAF

**St. Joseph the Worker**, Canoga Park (2nd & 4th Tuesdays,  
Parish Center 7:30pm)

- Bill Sparks (818) 883-7810  
bill@sjwchurch.com

••••• Thursdays •••••

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**, Newhall (1st & 3rd Thursdays)  
Conference Center, Room 2

- Joyce L'Heureux (661) 296-7622  
cresthome@att.net
- Bob Maryon (661) 225-1452

••••• Fridays •••••

**St. John Eudes**, Chatsworth (2nd & 4th Fridays at 8:00 pm)  
Grill Hall, Room C

- Kathy Tickner (818) 349-9335

## SAN GABRIEL REGION:

••••• Mondays •••••

### HEALING HEARTS

**Immaculate Conception**, Monrovia (1st & 3rd Mondays 7:00 pm)  
Room 1A

- Julie Auzenne (626) 357-6508  
jmonell@la-archdiocese.org

••••• Thursdays •••••

**Holy Family**, South Pasadena (2nd & 4th Thursdays,  
7:30 - 9:00pm)

Cardinal Manning Room

<http://holyfamily.org/2247/divorced-and-separated-support-group/>

- Holy Family Pastoral Center (626) 799-8908
- Terri Lynn Doubet (818) 729-0577
- Charley Cerutti cpcjr2@gmail.com

## SAN PEDRO REGION:

..... Mondays .....

- St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Lomita (1st & 3rd Mondays,  
7:00pm - 8:30pm)
- Judith Garvey at Parish Office (310) 326-3364
  - Marcella Keyes (310) 483-8169

..... Tuesdays .....

- American Martyrs, Manhattan Beach (1st & 3rd Tuesdays,  
7:00pm - 9:00pm)
- Jenny Attanasio (310) 545-5651  
jattanasio@americanmartyrs.org

- St. John Fisher, Rancho Palos Verdes (2nd & 4th Tuesdays,  
7:00pm - 8:30pm)
- Cathy Alessandra (310) 283-5271  
cathy@cathyalessandra.com

..... Thursdays .....

- Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Downey (Thursdays,  
Spanish 7:00pm - 9:00pm)
- Maria Paredes (562) 397-6444  
mariadp90241@me.com

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- St. Dominic Savio, Bellflower (please call for Dates & Time)  
English and Spanish
- Maria Paredes (562) 397-6444  
mariadp90241@me.com

*Please call for schedule*

## RETREAT HOUSES

The following Retreat Houses may have annual weekends for separated and divorced persons:

- DePaul Evangelization Center  
1105 Bluff Road  
Montebello, CA 90640-6143  
(323) 721-6060
- Holy Spirit Retreat Center  
4316 Lanai Road  
Encino, CA 91436-3617  
(818) 784-4518
- La Casa de Maria  
800 EI Bosque Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93108-1311  
(805) 969-5031
- Mary and Joseph Retreat Center  
5300 Crest Road  
Rancho Palos Verdes CA 90275  
(310) 377-4867
- Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center  
700 N. Sunnyside Avenue  
Sierra Madre, CA 91024-1023  
(626) 355-7188
- Poverello Retreat Center  
1519 Woodworth Street  
San Fernando, CA 91340-2751  
(818) 365-1071
- Sacred Heart Retreat House  
920 East Alhambra Road  
Alhambra, CA 91801-2799  
(626) 289-1353 Ext 200
- Serra Retreat House  
3401 Serra Road Box 127  
Malibu, CA 90265-0127  
(310) 456-6631
- Center for Spiritual Development  
434 S. Batavia Street  
Orange, CA 92868-3907  
(714) 744-3175 ext. 4400

## BEGINNING EXPERIENCE



The Beginning Experience is a weekend program designed to help widowed, separated and divorced persons make a new beginning in life. Although the program was designed by and for Catholics, it is open to persons of all faiths. There is now also Beginning Experience designed for young people.

Contact Persons:

- President:*
- Peg Setti (818) 767-1007
- Registrar:*
- Peg Setti (818) 767-1007
  - Brenda Mikhail (818) 352-5265
- Spanish:*
- Maria Rojas (310) 365-0186

Email: [beginningexp.losangeles@gmail.com](mailto:beginningexp.losangeles@gmail.com)

### DATES FOR BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKENDS:

*(All retreats are held at Holy Spirit Retreat Center, Encino, CA)*

August 16 -18, 2019

October 4 - 6, 2019

March 20-22, 2020

September 11-13, 2020

### CONTINUED BEGINNINGS

Six (6) Week Session

Follow-up Post Beginning Experience Weekends

## Separated & Divorced Ministry's Annual Gathering

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020**

**6:30pm**

*(Meet at the top of the driveway)*

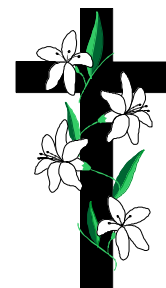
at

**Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center**  
**700 N. Sunnyside Avenue**  
**Sierra Madre, CA 91024**

For information contact:

Julie (213) 637-7249

[jmonell@la-archdiocese.org](mailto:jmonell@la-archdiocese.org)



# FACTS REGARDING DIVORCE AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Separated/Divorced Catholics who have not remarried outside of the Church may receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation and participate fully in parish life.

Divorced/Remarried Catholics whether remarried in the Church or not, are not excommunicated from the Church and are welcome to attend Mass and to participate in their parish activities.

## CATHOLIC DIVORCE MINISTRY [www.nacsd.org](http://www.nacsd.org)

### *CDM's Mission Statement*

CDM is dedicated to developing and expanding a peer ministry offering compassion, encouragement, support, and education to families who experience separation and divorce while affirming Catholic teaching and tradition.

### **Region 14 Representative:**

- Julie Auzenne, RN, MSN/MPH  
[region14@nacsd.org](mailto:region14@nacsd.org)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ANNULMENTS

## **What is an annulment?**

The term "annulment" is a misnomer because the Church does not undo or erase a marriage bond. Rather the Church issues declarations of nullity when it discovers that the parties were not truly joined by God and hence a full spiritual sacramental marriage as understood by the Church was not present.

## **Why should I get a Declaration of Nullity?**

People who have received a declaration of nullity have expressed feelings of relief, wholeness and healing as a result of the process. For those who have remarried outside of the Church, a Declaration of Nullity provides the opportunity to exercise all the privileges, receive the grace the sacraments offer and re-establish a closer bond with the community. This is a process of understanding, healing, and of making the justice and compassion of God more available to the divorced person.

## **How can I learn about a Declaration of Nullity?**

You may approach your pastor, priest/deacon or the layperson in your parish who has been trained in the process. If you encounter difficulties at your own parish, you may seek a referral directly from the Tribunal.

## **How long does the marriage nullity process usually take?**

The length of time varies from diocese to diocese, depending on the number of pending petitions, the cooperation of involved parties and the specific circumstances.

## **Can anybody petition?**

All have a right to petition. Whether that petition can be granted depends on the existence of recognized grounds for nullity and proof of same.

**Metropolitan Marriage Tribunal**  
**(213) 637-7245**  
**[marriagetricunal@la-archdiocese.org](mailto:marriagetricunal@la-archdiocese.org)**

*Recovery Ministry*  
to  
*Separated and Divorced Catholics*

*Healing Together*

*By Will Limon*

*I've learned that loss creates space for something new. Though I often feel alone, I know I'm not. Others around me have experienced similar losses. We share a silent kinship that gives us the opportunity to build new bonds with each other.*

*I can share my emptiness and hurt by confiding in others who have experienced a loss. My unhappiness was created by the ending of a relationship. Building new, healthy friendships may be the best way to help me heal and become a healing force for others.*

*As I work to restore myself, I will share my process. Together we can reveal our unhappiness, free our anger, and let go of fear. United we can do what we cannot do alone. Heal from our loss by finding life again.*