

## **Divorced Applicants**

The Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas desires to give a clear, unequivocal witness to the goodness and indissolubility of marriage, and it recognizes the potential confusion that may arise when its ordained ministers have had recourse to civil divorce.

Accordingly, for married applicants to the diaconate program, those who have been married only once and who, if their first spouse is still alive, continue in a healthy and holy union, **are the preferred applicants**. Applicants who have been divorced will only be considered on a case-by-case basis, pursuant to the provisions of this policy, recognizing the Archbishop's sole discretion regarding the suitability of such applicants.

If divorced and not remarried, the applicant must be willing and able to embrace a commitment to celibacy, assuming he has obtained a declaration of nullity or a canonical dissolution of the prior marriage. If he has not obtained a declaration of nullity or canonical dissolution, the applicant may reconcile with his estranged wife, but Church discipline would prohibit another attempted marital union.

The applications of men who are divorced and remarried will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- The circumstances surrounding the divorce;
- The likelihood of scandal to the faithful if the applicant is ordained, including the response of the former "spouse" and any adult children from such prior union;
- The length and stability of the current sacramental marriage; and
- The applicant's present reputation and witness—in word and action--with regard to Catholic teaching on marriage and family life.