

DIVORCED AND FAITHFUL: ALL IS RESTORED IN CHRIST

The Church journeys with each person through moments of heartbreaking sadness such as divorce offering a message of hope, love and mercy that is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.

DOCUMENTS AND WEBSITES

USCCB

Marriage, Love and Life in the Divine Plan (also available in Spanish):

www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/marriage/love-and-life

For Your Marriage

Church Teaching on Divorce: www.foryourmarriage.org/catholic-marriage/church-teachings/divorce

Church Teaching on Annulments: www.foryourmarriage.org/catholic-marriage/church-teachings/annulments

Vatican Search for these titles at www.vatican.va

Pope Francis General Audience, Wednesday, August 5, 2015 - Wounded Families

"...the awareness has truly grown that it is necessary to have a fraternal and attentive welcome, in love and in truth, of the baptized who have established a new relationship of cohabitation after the failure of the marital sacrament; in fact, these persons are by no means excommunicated — they are not excommunicated! — and they should absolutely not be treated as such: they are still a part of the Church."

Familiaris Consortio, Saint John Paul II, section *Pastoral Action in Certain Irregular Situations*

"I earnestly call upon pastors and the whole community of the faithful to help the divorced, and with solicitous care to make sure that they do not consider themselves as separated from the Church, for as baptized persons they can, and indeed must, share in her life. They should be encouraged to listen to the word of God, to attend the Sacrifice of the Mass, to persevere in prayer, to contribute to works of charity and to community efforts in favor of justice, to bring up their children in the Christian faith, to cultivate the spirit and practice of penance and thus implore, day by day, God's grace. Let the Church pray for them, encourage them and show herself a merciful mother, and thus sustain them in faith and hope."

Speech at the Seventh World Meeting of Families, Pope Benedict XVI, The Araujo Family

"...it is very important that they truly realize they are participating in the Eucharist if they enter into a real communion with the Body of Christ. Even without "corporal" reception of the sacrament, they can be spiritually united to Christ in his Body. Bringing them to understand this is important: so that they find a way to live the life of faith based upon the Word of God and the communion of the Church, and that they come to see their suffering as a gift to the Church, because it helps others by defending the stability of love and marriage."

Diocesan Resources

Office of Tribunal: www.orlandodiocese.org/ministries-offices/annulments

Separated and divorced support groups

- Holy Redeemer Parish, 1603 N. Thacker, Kissimmee. Contact: Sylvester, 407-406-0707.
- St. Margaret Mary Parish, 526 Park Ave. N., Winter Park. Contact: Lori Reinneck, lori@stmargaretmary.org, 407-645-0284.