



DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

October 30, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The traditional vocation of marriage, as an indissoluble union of one man and one woman entered into for the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children, is severely under attack in our nation and world. As Catholics, we are called not only to foster authentic love in our own marriages and families, but also to defend and protect the sacred dignity of marriage in our contemporary society. The marriage of man and woman must be safeguarded as it forms the essential building block for a just and peaceful society.

As Bishop, I have met Catholics who for various reasons have been married civilly, but not in the Church, or who are cohabiting with the intention of marriage. If you or someone you know is in this situation, I wish to extend a special and heartfelt invitation to inquire about having the marriage validated and blessed by the Catholic Church. Please see today's bulletin and contact your pastor for more information on how to begin the validation process. As disciples of Jesus Christ, it is only in authentically living our particular state in life that we find true happiness and fulfillment.

I also wish to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation to all married couples who generously foster a civilization of love and life. Thank you for your daily contribution to our Church and society.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend George V. Murry, SJ.
Bishop of Youngstown

Ld Please read this letter at all Masses during the weekend of October 30 & 31, 2010

*World Marriage Day
Sunday, February 13, 2011*

In Preparation for World Marriage Day 2011...

Couples who are married civilly or who are cohabiting and intend to marry are invited to inquire about the recognition and blessing of their marriage before the Catholic Church.

A celebration near World Marriage Day 2011 will be held for those completing their preparation for marriage in the Catholic Church.

Return the form below to your parish office by November 15th to inquire about beginning the process for the recognition of your marriage before the Church. The pastor will forward the necessary material to the Tribunal of the Diocese.



All inquiries are confidential.

We are interested in beginning the marriage validation process in the Catholic Church.

Please print

Name (man) _____ Signature _____

Name (woman) _____ Signature _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Best Time to Contact _____ A.M. _____ P.M.

Registered Parishioners at: (Church Name)_____