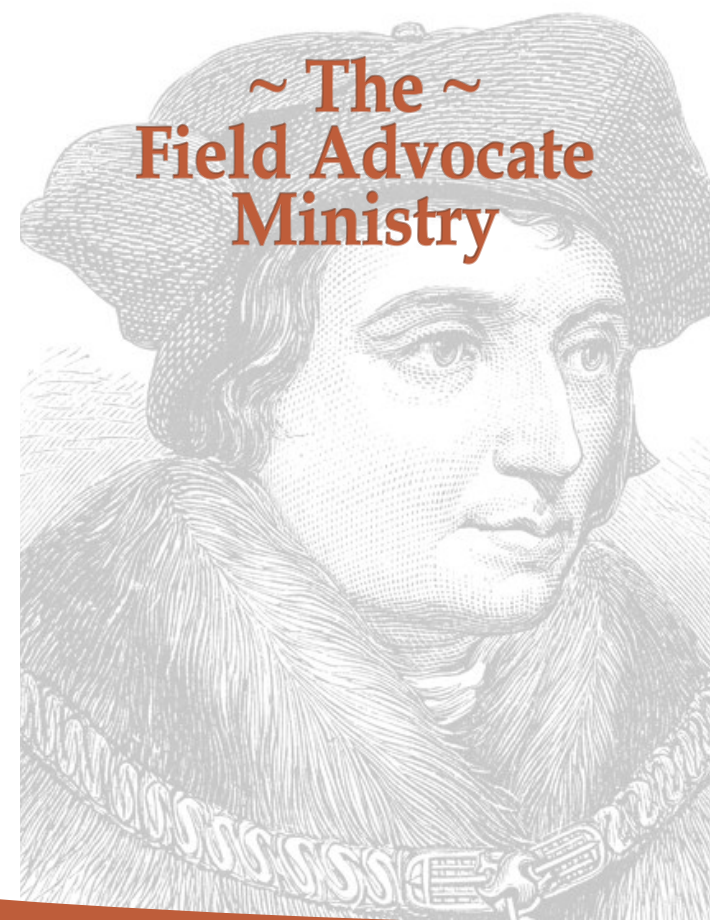




The Diocesan Tribunal

An ecclesiastical court, the Tribunal adjudicates ordinary contentious trials, including marriage invalidity cases and documentary cases associated with marriage law, in conjunction with the Promoter of Justice and the Defender of the Bond.



~ The ~ Field Advocate Ministry

WHO MAY BECOME AN ADVOCATE:

- Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Associates
- Pastors' Nominees:
Parishioners and Parish Outreach Personnel
- Graduates of the Diocesan Lay Ministry Formation Program, *Called to Servant Leadership*

THE SELECTION PROCESS:

- Nominations will come from local parishes.
- Candidates will be recommended or approved by their pastors.
- Participants in the program must complete the required training sessions.
- Those trained in this program will act in service to the local parish and/or deanery.
- Final selection of the Advocates will be made by the Tribunal.



Diocese of Manchester
Office of Canonical Services and Tribunal
153 Ash Street
Manchester, NH 03104
(603) 669- 3101

A Helping Hand To Those
Seeking An
Annulment Of Their Marriage



TRIBUNAL
DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER

"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 ... Let the church pray for them, encourage them and show herself a merciful mother and thus sustain them in faith and hope."

Pope John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio*, 1981, ¶84

THE FIELD ADVOCATE MINISTRY

For many Catholics the decision to seek an annulment of their marriage is confusing and intimidating. The Tribunal in the Diocese of Manchester, the Court of Law for the Catholic Church in New Hampshire, wishes to train Field Advocates who pastorally can assist individuals to arrive at truthful decisions about the validity of their marriage; and assist the Petitioner or Respondent with information and concerns during the process.

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THE FIELD ADVOCATE?

- Assist Pastors, Petitioners and Respondents at the parish level who seek information about the annulment process.
- Guide and assist the person whose marriage is under investigation to assemble and complete the necessary documentation.
- Assist either the Petitioner or the Respondent to formulate and present their case to the Tribunal.
- Act as a liaison between the Tribunal and the party when questions arise about the process.
- Participate in annual skills development and enrichment training sessions.

EXPECTATIONS OF SERVICE

- Participants are asked to have a degree of flexibility and willingness to adjust to program developments.
- Have the ability to receive ongoing training and available supervision.

BILINGUAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

- Multi-lingual ability is a plus
- Advocates displaying cultural diversity will be valuable to assist those from diverse cultural backgrounds and traditions.

COSTS AND FEES

- There are no fees for the required training.
- There is no salary or reimbursement for this voluntary ministry.

ONGOING TRAINING & CONSULTATION

- The Tribunal staff will support Field Advocates in the development of annulment petitions.
- The Tribunal personnel will arrange for required periodic enrichment training and development experiences for the Field Advocates.

TRAINING SCHEDULE

- **Marriage in Church Teaching and Law**
 - * Consent, Essential Elements, Essential Properties, and What Could Go Wrong in Entering Marriage?
 - * Defining Valid, Natural, Sacramental, Catholic and Form
 - * Lack of Form, Defect of Form
 - * Non-Sacramental Marriages
- **Canon Law and Marriage**
 - * Putative Marriage and Introduction to the Theory of Defective Consent
 - * Introduction to the Grounds of Invalidity
 - * Rights of the Parties, Confidentiality, and Ways in Which the Respondent Participates
- **The Investigation of the Validity of A Marriage**
 - * Formal Case Procedure
 - * Petition and Questionnaires
 - * Jurisdiction
 - * Diagramming Marriage Histories and *Ligamen*
 - * Dissolution: Pauline Privilege and Favor of the Faith
- **Things An Advocate Should Know**
 - * Meeting Your Petitioner/Respondent
 - * Setting the Stage
 - * Interviewing Techniques and Practices
 - * Advocate's Brief and Advocate's Notes
- **The Advocates' Workshop**
 - * Setting the Stage
 - * Interviewing Techniques and Practices
 - * "Red Flag" Information and Responses
 - * Mock Depositions and Evaluation

Salus animarum, Suprema lex.