

# *Certificate in* **MATRIMONIAL ADVOCACY**

## **What is the role of a Matrimonial Advocate?**

A Matrimonial Advocate works in conjunction with the Diocesan Tribunal, to assist persons involved in an annulment case to assemble and complete the necessary documentation.

The Code of Canon Law (c. 1483) sets basic requirements for advocates. A Certificate in Matrimonial Advocacy completes the preparation for appointment by the Bishop of San Diego to the ministry of advocate.

### **What are the requirements?**

The Certificate requires at least 260 clock hours plus successful completion of a 30-hour practicum under supervision of the Diocesan Tribunal.

### **What do studies entail?**

Students must attend classes, complete reading and assignments, participate in discussion, and take exams for a grade of “C–” or better, or earn a “Pass.”

### **How much does it cost?**

Tuition is \$35 to \$75, depending on length. Discounts are available for auditors and groups of four or more. Cost of books is extra for each course.

### **When and where are courses offered?**

Courses are held primarily in the evening, year-round, at parish and diocesan sites. Schedules and registration are online.

*Visit us online for details of all the diocesan certificates, or call (858) 490-8212.*



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## What courses do I need?

Completion of the Certificate requires at least 260 clock hours taken for credit via the following Institute courses:

### CORE COURSES

- C100** Basic Elements of Catholicism (20 hrs)
- C110** Catechism of the Catholic Church (15 hrs)
- C120** Local Church (15 hrs)
- C220** Introduction to New Testament (30 hrs)

### GENERAL COURSES

- G100** Fundamental Theology (15 hrs)
- G130** Christology (30 hrs)
- G140** Ecclesiology (30 hrs)
- G200** Pastoral Focus for Cultural Diversity (15 hrs)
- G400** Introduction to Church Government (30 hrs)

### SPECIAL COURSES

- S270** Theology of Marriage (15 hrs)
- S520** Marriage Canons (15 hrs)
- S521** Consent and Special Issues in Marriage and Nullity Procedures (30 hrs)
- S1020** Pastoral Care and Counseling (15 hrs)

*(Candidates may transfer up to 90 clock hours of equivalent courses from other institutions.)*

## How long does course work take?

Attending one course at a time, once a week, and completing the practicum, the certificate requires about three years to finish.

## How do I arrange to complete the practicum?

After completion of the course work, the Institute director will work with the certificate seeker to arrange for the practicum with the Tribunal.

## Letter of recommendation

Because a Matrimonial Advocate is an official appointed to the Tribunal, a letter of recommendation from his or her pastor is required prior to the appointment.