

A valid Catholic marriage results from four elements:

- 1) The spouses are free to marry and they freely exchange consent.
- 2) They intend to marry for life.
- 3) They are open to bearing children.
- 4) Their wedding takes place in the presence of two witnesses and before a properly authorized priest or deacon. Exceptions to the last requirement must be approved by Church authority (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops).

If single, a Liturgy Ministers' life must be led according to the values of the Church.