

POLICY ON THE PLACE FOR MARRIAGE

[Originally promulgated by Cardinal Bevilacqua on October 1, 1999; confirmed by Cardinal Rigali on November 1, 2006]

I. GENERAL NORMS

- A. In accord with the long-standing policy common to all the dioceses of the Province of Philadelphia, no marriage is permitted to be celebrated outdoors.
- B. Marriage is ordinarily not to be celebrated in a chapel on a Catholic or secular school campus¹; in a religious house; or, in a private home.

Only in the most extraordinary cases will the Chancery grant permission for marriage in any of these places.

- C. When a marriage is to be celebrated outside the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, in other than a parish church, the priest/deacon preparing the couple is to consult first with the Chancery in the diocese where the wedding is to take place, regarding the suitability of the proposed place for marriage. This is to be done as early as possible.

II. MARRIAGE BETWEEN TWO CATHOLICS

- A. Ordinarily, it is to be celebrated in the parish church of the bride or groom.
- B. With permission of the pastor of the bride or groom, or of the Chancery, it may be celebrated in another parish church.
- C. It is not to be celebrated elsewhere, except in the most extraordinary circumstances and with the permission of the Chancery.

III. MARRIAGE BETWEEN A CATHOLIC & A BAPTIZED NON-CATHOLIC

- A. Employing the Canonical Form for Marriage:
 - 1. Ordinarily, it is to be celebrated in the parish church of the Catholic party.

¹Weddings are permitted at Villanova University's "Chapel," because it is the parish church of Saint Thomas of Villanova Parish, Rosemont.

2. With permission of the pastor of the Catholic party, or of the Chancery, it may be celebrated in another parish church.
 3. With permission of the Chancery, it may be celebrated in a non-Catholic church or chapel of particular significance to the non-Catholic party (but not in a non-denominational church or chapel).
 4. It is not to be celebrated elsewhere, except in the most extraordinary circumstances and with the permission of the Chancery.
- B. With a dispensation from the Canonical Form for Marriage:
1. Ordinarily, it is to be celebrated in a non-Catholic church or chapel of particular significance to the non-Catholic party (but not in a non-denominational church or chapel).
 2. It is not to be celebrated in a Catholic church or chapel.
 3. It is not to be celebrated elsewhere, except in the most extraordinary circumstances and with the permission of the Chancery.

IV. MARRIAGE BETWEEN A CATHOLIC & A NON-BAPTIZED PERSON

- A. Employing the Canonical Form for Marriage:
1. Ordinarily, it is to be celebrated in the parish church of the Catholic party.
 2. With permission of the pastor of the Catholic party, or of the Chancery, it may be celebrated in another parish church.
 3. With permission of the Chancery, it may be celebrated:
 - a. In a non-Catholic church, chapel, or sacred edifice of particular significance to the non-baptized party (but not in a non-denominational church or chapel).
 - b. In a neutral setting, providing it is indoors.

- B. With a dispensation from the Canonical Form for Marriage:
1. It may be celebrated in a non-Catholic church, chapel, or sacred edifice of particular significance to the non-baptized party (but not in a non-denominational church or chapel).
 2. It may be celebrated in a neutral setting, providing it is indoors.
 3. It is not to be celebrated in a Catholic church or chapel.