

July 10, 2024

Dear (Names removed for privacy reasons):

With the passing of time, much prayer and meditation, contemplation, and consultation with competent authorities; at the beginning of 2024 I began the process to open a formal inquiry into the validity of the marriage between your mother and myself. Attached is a legal document issued by the Marriage Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Omaha which after examining all available evidence and in consideration of Canon Law has declared our marriage null.

The finding which you can read for yourself basically states that a marriage conducted outside of the authority of the Catholic Church is null. When we thought we were married by a Priest of the Society of St. Pius X, we in fact were not due to the defect of the Priest not having permission of the legal representative in the Diocese of Rapid City, South Dakota. Even though he was/is recognized as having a valid ordination by the Catholic Church and can offer a valid Mass privately, he (and all other clergy) do not have the authority to convey any sacrament if they have not received explicit permission from the local Ordinary.

Many contend that the 1983 Code of Canon Law is invalid because it is “modern” or “watered down” and therefore the citations are invalid. In researching the citations I’ve found that the new code has more precise language and closes loopholes. The revisions were proposed as early as 1936 when glaring problems with the 1917 code had become manifest. I am attaching a comparison of the 1983 Code with the 1917 Code. You will find that the 1983 code (although verbose) basically states the same thing and has the same requirements.

Please take some time and review the attachments and learn from the mistakes we made. From being married outside of the Church, to not following the proper process of examination of the validity of marriage by competent authority before divorce.

One cannot pass along what they have not received. Prior to his passing, your Grandpa Klabenes told me once that some things were uncomfortable for him to discuss. He admitted that he did not pass to me all I needed. When you were children, I was not equipped to give you everything you needed about the Catholic Faith. Some of these things are simple such as the importance of the understanding the seven deadly sins or the need for charity. Other things are more subtle like that a marriage is between the husband and wife and there should be no interference from children, parents, friends and relatives, etc. The past several years have forced me to learn more about the Catholic Faith and fill in the many gaps in what I received. I am by no means an expert or have all of the answers. I am anxious to share what I have learned and to introduce you to competent sources who do have answers.

Lastly, I want to apologize for any disagreements and difficult words we have exchanged on this topic. The Church teaches (and also cites in Canon Law) that the marital bond exists until proven otherwise before a competent authority. I acted all of these years under that direction. Now that the truth is exposed I admit I was wrong and apologize for any scandal I created in trying to expose what normally is another scandal.

With that said, I ask that we can set the past aside. Accept my apology and forgiveness and let us renew our familial relationship.

With all of my love,

/s/ Kenneth