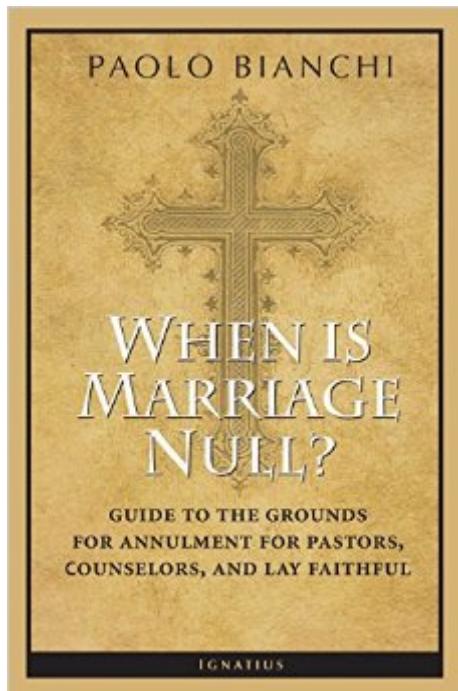


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# When Is Marriage Null?: Guide To The Grounds Of Matrimonial Nullity For Pastors, Counselors, And Lay Faithful



## **Synopsis**

Many marriages are ended by separation or divorce, but for the baptized Christian they remain valid marriages forever. There are, however, cases in which a Christian marriage can be recognized as null, i.e. it never existed. This book, written by a specialist with a gift for clarity on a complicated, sensitive issue, is a guide for a first approach to the problems related to the conditions for eventually declaring the nullity of a canonical Christian marriage. This work is an indispensable aid for the pastors of souls, for Catholic counselors, and can be very useful also for anyone who has serious questions about the validity of his own marriage. The primary purpose of this work is to provide clear, well-founded information in sufficient quantity to parish priests and to all who will act as counselors in these matters, either in formally organized parochial counseling services, or in other possible forms of collaboration with the parish priest, or else in the ecclesiastical tribunals themselves as a step previous to the possible introduction of the case. Among the areas he covers are: Violation of the freedom of consent; Error about a person; Exclusion of offspring; Exclusion of fidelity; Incapacity to consent; Incapacity to assume the essential obligations of marriage; Conditional consent.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This book, "When is Marriage Null" is an English translation of a 1998 Italian book of journal articles fleshing out the canonical grounds of marriage nullity. The author, Fr. Paolo Bianchi, sought to implement the particular law of the Italian Episcopal Conference in reference to educating the

parochial "first responders" in facilitating the examination of non-superficial indications or legitimate grounds regarding the case of the potential plaintiff seeking a declaration of nullity prior to approaching a diocesan tribunal. The Italian Bishop's Conference in 1990 promulgated a decree in which article 56 of said decree wished to promote the study or cursory examination of the various grounds of marriage nullity by those who may not be proficiently versed in canon law (i.e., the parish pastors). The book is absolutely beautiful in the breakdown and explanation of the canonical jurisprudence. It is a literal goldmine of valuable information, not to mention the exquisite ability of the author to explain so eloquently the nature of invalidity. Wow! This is one of the best books on this topic that I have ever read and I have read a great many. "When is Marriage Null" is canonical caviar, an academic treatise that will most certainly stimulate the canonist who is interested in the field of marriage jurisprudence. Hands down, the finest work I have ever read. My two favorite areas of marriage law are canons 1097 (error) and 1095 (incapacity). Fr. Paolo dedicates over 75 pages (out of 315) to these two areas alone. He brilliantly explains the subjects so well (with real case examples) that I am struggling to see how this book can be useful for the non-canonist.

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