

# **TRIBUNAL DIOCESE OF BUFFALO**

## **GUIDELINES FOR PERSONAL AND MARITAL HISTORY**

Please follow these guidelines and give examples where possible. Please note that the areas prior to marriage are especially important.

### **A. BACKGROUND OF EACH PARTY:**

#### **1. For myself:**

Describe the character of each parent and your estimate of who was the dominant one in the home; your relationship with your parents, brothers and sisters; account of school life and grades; religious practices; ease of making and keeping friends; medical history; unusual fears in childhood or later; history of dating and whether any earlier, serious romances existed and, if so, why they were terminated; history or attitude towards sex and any problems with it; long-range goals or did you live only for the moment; work record including dependability, responsibility; save money regularly or spend it foolishly; an evaluation of strong and weak areas of own personality, inferiority complex, sensitive to the needs of others, nervous, quick-tempered, moody, jealous, selfish, ungrateful, lie habitually; was conduct erratic and unpredictable, often outlandish and fantastic, lack good judgment in every day situations.

#### **2. For former spouse:**

Please answer the same questions from your knowledge and understanding.

### **B. THE COURTSHIP:**

Detail length; how you met; frequency and kinds of dates; source of attraction; any problems in dating; whether relationship ever ended and why; how topic of marriage arose; reaction of each family to wedding plans; unusual pressure to marry; attitude and use of sex during the courtship; any reluctance to marry; attitude of each to fidelity, permanence of marriage, to divorce and to children.

### **C. WEDDING AND HONEYMOON:**

Attitude of each at church and reception; any unusual incidents on the wedding day; was the honeymoon a pleasant experience; was the marriage consummated? If not, why?

### **D. MARRIED LIFE:**

Length of marriage; attitude of each to work and responsibilities; attitude toward children; physical or emotional mistreatment; role parents played in marriage; any abuse of money, alcohol and gambling; when did problems arise and over what; detail all separations – cause, length and reconciliation.

### **E. PSYCHIATRIC, PSYCHOLOGICAL OR COUNSELING THERAPY:**

Give the names and addresses of psychiatrists, approximate dates, number of sessions and diagnosis. If either party had counseling of any sort, please do the same.