



Memo

Date: October 16, 2023

To: Priests

From: Father Pedro Poloche, STL, JCL, director, Ongoing Formation of Priests

Re: Registration open – Canonical Marriage Law Seminar

Registration is now open for the Canonical Marriage Law Seminar. (See seminar details below.) Please contact Amanda Hailey at ahailey@archatl.com or by calling 678-595-9181.

The Office of Ongoing Formation and the Metropolitan Tribunal of Atlanta will be offering a four-class series on Canonical Marriage Law on consecutive Tuesdays in January (Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30). The classes will take place at the Chancery in Grand Hall A from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The seminar will be presented by Dr. Felix Menendez, the Court Administrator of the Metropolitan Tribunal of Atlanta. Dr. Menendez will address fundamentals of Canon Law and basics of the Catholic understanding of marriage such as:

- What is the definition of marriage?
- When is a marriage sacramental?
- Is there a difference between the covenant and the contract of marriage?
- Are most marriages invalid?
- What is the difference between annulment and dissolution?

The goal is to assist priests in their daily ministry as we face questions about marriage. There will be a Q&A session offered during each class.

Dr. Felix Menendez was born in Oviedo, Spain, in 1980. He obtained his STL and JCD degrees at the Ecclesiastical University of San Dámaso, in Madrid, Spain, and a MA in International Relations from the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, in Germany. In addition to being court administrator, he

also serves as diocesan judge for the past five years. Fluent in five languages, he has translated into Spanish from the original Italian several Canon Law handbooks, including consecrated authors like De Paolis (General Norms, Consecrated Life, Temporal Goods), Coccopalmerio (Parish), Pinto (Processes) or Stankiewicz (Processes); he has also translated from the original German the IV volume of Joseph Ratzinger's complete works, including his famous "Introduction to Christianity." Menendez's canonical research focuses on substantial marriage law, particularly error and exclusion.