



# Destination Wedding?

## Paperwork and Requirements

Are you getting married outside the country? Be sure to allow plenty of time to get the paperwork ready.

You must first talk to the priest who will be marrying you and find out what is required in his parish, diocese, and country. You also must follow the civil laws for marriage in that country. Most countries outside of the United States require that any Catholics getting married must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Begin the paperwork at your local parish, where the priest will know what forms must be filled out. Once your file is complete, he sends it to the Office for Canonical Services at the Quigley Center, 835 North Rush Street, Chicago IL 60611 for review and seals. It is then sent to the diocese where you are getting married, where it will be reviewed, stamped for approval, and sent on to the Catholic church where your marriage will take place.

This can take quite a bit of time, and Canonical Services ask that you get them the paperwork **at least three months before the wedding**. They also will need complete information; names, addresses, phone numbers, etc. for the parish and if possible, the diocese in the country where your wedding will take place.

Don't trust a wedding planner to do this. They often don't understand the marriage preparation rules and requirements for Catholics.

