Dylantic Church Clergy Marriage and Celibacy Policy

Article X: Clerical Marriage and Celibacy

1. **Celibacy is Never Required:**
   Celibacy is entirely optional and **not required for any clergy Including nuns**. The choice to marry or remain single is left to personal calling and conscience.

   Reference:

   - 1 Corinthians 7:7–9 (Paul encourages singleness but affirms marriage is good)

   - Matthew 19:11-12 (Jesus speaks of some who choose celibacy for the kingdom's sake)

   - 1 Timothy 3:2 (An overseer must be "the husband of one wife" — indicating married leaders are accepted)

2. **Marriage Fully Honored:**
   Marriage is a sacred and honored state, fully compatible with ministry.

   Reference:

   - Genesis 2:24 (Marriage as a foundational union)
   - Ephesians 5:22–33 (Marriage symbolizing Christ and the Church)
   - Proverbs 18:22 (He who finds a wife finds a good thing)

3. **No Restrictions on Episcopal Marriage:**
   Unlike some traditions, Dylantic bishops and all clergy are free to marry.

   Reference:

   - 1 Timothy 3:4-5 (Bishops must manage their household well)
   - Titus 1:6 (Bishops must be "the husband of one wife")
     These affirm the legitimacy of married bishops.

4. **Remarriage and Adultery:**

   ○ If a marriage ends due to **adultery or abuse**, **only the innocent party may remarry**.
   ○ The adulterous party **may never remarry**.
   ○ Anyone who marries a divorced adulterous person **is considered an adulterer**.

   Reference:

   ○ Matthew 5:32 (Jesus forbids remarriage except on grounds of sexual immorality)
   ○ Matthew 19:9 (Exception for divorce due to sexual immorality)
   ○ 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (Warning against adulterers entering the kingdom of God)
   ○ Hebrews 13:4 (Marriage is honorable, and the marriage bed undefiled)

5. **Faithful Life Expected:**
   All clergy—married or single—are called to live faithful, moral lives, reflecting Christ's love and integrity.

   Reference:

   ○ 1 Peter 2:12 (Live good lives among outsiders)
   ○ 1 Timothy 3:2-7 (Qualifications for church leaders emphasize moral character)
   ○ James 3:1 (Teachers are held to higher accountability)