

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)