

## **Dylantic Church Clergy, Marriage, and Celibacy Policy**

Clergy in the Dylantic Church include ordained male priests and bishops. Deacons, male or female, serve in practical and spiritual roles such as baptism, lay confession, confirmation if entrusted, preparing Eucharist materials, and offering prayers during the Anointing of the Sick. All deacons do **not** have Apostolic or sacramental authority. Women do not have sacramental authority: they may not consecrate the Eucharist or administer other sacraments reserved for priests with valid Apostolic succession. Clergy must live lives of faithfulness, integrity, and holiness.

Celibacy is optional for all clergy, male or female. Clergy may marry if they choose. Monks and nuns are not considered clergy, but they are also not required to practice celibacy unless they voluntarily choose to do so. Marriage is a lifelong union between one man and one woman. Any marriage that violates the Church's teaching on sexual morality—including adultery, fornication, homosexual acts, abortion, or other sexual immorality—is invalid. A marriage may be declared null and void if one or both parties engaged in sexual immorality prior to marriage, deceived the other regarding sexual purity, or were sexually unfaithful during the marriage. Those whose marriage is annulled due to premarital immorality or deception may remarry if they are the innocent party; the party responsible may not remarry within the Church. Anyone knowingly marrying a divorced person who was divorced for adultery is considered complicit in an adulterous union.

Clergy must abstain from sexual immorality. Any active promotion or facilitation of sexual immorality, including affirming or supporting LGBTQ+ sexual practices, is strictly forbidden. Violation of these standards may result in removal from clerical duties or other canonical discipline.

Clergy may administer baptism using the Church's sacramental formula: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Deacons, male or female, may perform baptisms as part of their non-sacramental role. Sacramental confession may only be administered by priests with valid Apostolic succession. Lay confession may be performed by any believer, including women, and conveys spiritual benefit when approached with contrition and prayer. Only priests with valid Apostolic succession may consecrate the Eucharist. Women may prepare the bread and wine for the Eucharist. Confirmation is ordinarily reserved for priests, but deacons may perform it if entrusted. Priests confer sacramental grace in the Anointing of the Sick. Women may participate by offering prayers for the sick, supporting the sacrament spiritually without exercising priestly authority.

Clergy are subject to canonical discipline for violations of Church teaching or moral conduct. All canonical decisions follow due process and may be reviewed by Church authorities to ensure fairness and adherence to doctrine.

The Dylantic Church balances historical fidelity with practical participation, allowing women and deacons to serve as reliable spiritual and practical support while preserving sacramental authority for ordained male priests and bishops. All clergy, male or female, are called to uphold faithfulness, holiness, and integrity in their spiritual and personal lives.