

Deacon Mike's Corner

If a Catholic wants to marry a non-Christian, could the couple get married in the Church?

Marrying a non-Christian in the church is more difficult than marrying a Protestant Christian, but it can be done. This is because the Church is well aware of the difficulties that will be faced by the couple due to their different faiths or lack of faith, and wants to make sure that the couple is making a prudent decision to get married. In addition to the same norms or laws established for marrying a Protestant in their church, one must get a dispensation from the Bishop to get married. Failure to do so makes this marriage invalid. The Church in its wisdom wants to insure that the two to be married understand and agree that marriage is truly a permanent covenant for life, that there are no impediments to a valid marriage, and that there is an understanding of the unitive and procreative nature of marriage.

What is our purpose in being here in this world?

This is the most important question in life; it is also a short answer. In short, God created us to know, love, and serve Him in this life, so that we can be happy with Him forever in the next life (CCC # 356). Since our ultimate purpose is eternal happiness in heaven, we must say "yes" to God's grace in this life by knowing Him and by loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Why do priests wear black?

In North America and in Western Europe, priests wear black to show that they are "dead to the world" in order to be alive for Christ and service to His Church. Traditionally, priests wore a cassock--a long, ankle-length robe----around the parish church. Today, most priests wear a black clerical shirt with a Roman collar and black pants. In warmer climates, though, some priests actually wear lighter colors, usually white.