

These provisions were repeated in the 1983 Code of Canon Law (1124-1129).

The Irish Episcopal Conference decided that in Ireland the declaration and promise by the Catholic partner could be made orally or in writing. In a 1983 **Directory on Mixed Marriages** the Bishops explained the promise about bringing up the children as Catholics thus:

*"The second (promise) is to do everything one can, in the total context of the marriage, to pass on (the Catholic) faith to one's children and to have them baptised and educated in the Catholic Church.....How (the Catholic partner) succeeds in practice in the particular marriage depends not only on the Catholic's efforts, but also on the agreement and co-operation of the other partner" (emphasis added).*

This was further explained by the **Directory for the Application of Principles and Norms on Ecumenism** issued by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity in 1993:

*"In carrying out this duty of transmitting the Catholic faith to the children, the Catholic parent will do so with respect for the religious freedom and conscience of the other parent and with regard for the unity and permanence of the marriage and for the maintenance of the community of the family" (par 151).*

The 1983 **Directory** of the Irish Episcopal Conference points out that the obligations undertaken by the Catholic partner in a mixed marriage "apply to all Catholic spouses whether they marry a Catholic or not".

In 1991 the Irish Episcopal Conference revised the standard **Pre-Nuptial Enquiry Form** with a view to situating it within the pastoral preparation for marriage as distinct from seeing it merely as a canonical investigation to establish the couple's freedom to marry one another. In this pastoral context every Catholic's acceptance of the Christian understanding of marriage, their obligation to preserve and practise their faith and their responsibility to have all their children baptised and brought up as Catholics are important.

For that reason, the present Pre-Nuptial Enquiry includes the following questions to be asked of all Catholics:

- (6) *Do you accept that marriage has been instituted by God and made a sacrament by Christ?*
- (7) *Are you resolved to remain steadfast in your Catholic faith and to practise it regularly?*
- (8) *Do you promise to do what you can within the unity of your partnership to have all the children of your marriage baptised and brought up in the Catholic faith?*

This has one important implication as far as the promises made by the Catholic partner in a mixed marriage are concerned. The declaration and promise are already contained in the answers to these questions. For that reason they are not made again in the application for a permission/dispensation for a mixed marriage. The result is that at the present time in Ireland nothing more in the way of undertakings is required of the Catholic partner in a mixed marriage than is required of Catholics marrying one another.