

This week's answers:

1. **a)** "The consent consists in a 'human act by which the partners mutually give themselves to each other': 'I take you to be my wife' — 'I take you to be my husband'" (CCC, 1627).
2. **b)** The sacrament of marriage is a vocation, a particular way of living out the call to be a Christian disciple, just as a priest has a lifelong vocation to the priesthood.
3. **False.** Weddings should be celebrated in the context of Mass (see CCC, 1621), but under special circumstances, the marriage rite can be performed outside of a Mass (for instance, if the bride or groom is not Catholic. Note: For a wedding to be celebrated as one of the seven sacraments, the partners must have already been baptized in the Christian community).
4. **c)** If a couple is married in a ceremony outside of the Catholic Church but they later wish to enter into a sacramental Catholic marriage, the church will help them to prepare for a **convalidation** ceremony. A convalidation is a true celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, and so it follows the Catholic Church's *Rite of Marriage Outside of Mass*. This includes a Liturgy of the Word (Scripture readings and homily), Prayers of the Faithful, the Rite of Marriage, Our Father, Nuptial Blessing, and Final Blessing and dismissal.
5. **False.** There is nothing that limits a divorced Catholic who is not remarried from fully participating in the life of the church, including receiving communion. On the other hand, a divorced and remarried Catholic who has not received an annulment generally should not receive the Eucharist. However, Pope Francis reminds us that "**It is important that the divorced who have entered a new union should be made to feel part of the Church. They are not excommunicated, and they should not be treated as such...Language or conduct that might lead them to feel discriminated against should be avoided.**" (Joy of Love, 243)