Name

Handout 3-A

Date

**Diriment Impediments to Marriage**

Cut out the strips on the dotted line, including the boldface titles.

**Diriment Impediment Description**

**Impotence** A person who is unable to consummate the marriage through the sexual act is not free to marry. This is not the same as sterility.

**Prior marriage** If a person is married, and the marriage has not been declared null, then that person is not free to marry.

**Consanguinity** Direct line (father-daughter) and “up to the fourth degree con- sanguinity” (first cousins) blood relations cannot marry.

**Conjucide** A person who has killed a spouse so as to be free to marry another may not marry without permission from the pope.

**Holy Orders** Ordained people cannot move from their present state of life without going through the process of laicization, and they must have specific permission to marry from the pope.

**Perpetual vow of chastity** A person who has taken a perpetual vow of chastity is not free to marry without papal permission and release from the vow.

**Age** The Church has set the minimum age for marriage as sixteen for males and fourteen for females; however, most dioceses use the legal state requirements as the minimum age.

**Affinity** Those who are related by marriage cannot marry each other.

Thus, an uncle-by-marriage cannot marry his niece.

**Disparity of cult** A Catholic cannot marry a non-Christian without an express dispensation.

**Abduction** If an intended spouse is abducted by the other intended spouse, this impedes the marriage from validly occurring.

**Adoption** If persons are related through adoption they cannot validly be married.

**Public propriety** A person cannot marry a first-degree relation of a previous spouse, such as the mother of a previous spouse.