



# ARCHDIOCESE OF HALIFAX

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Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary  
Halifax, August 15, 2006

Dear Young People,

I read the letter you sent me after having been “united, before God, June 10, 2006, in the chapel of the Eucharistic and Marian Center Spiri-Maria at Lac-Etchemin”, as you yourselves wrote.

The information that was given you concerning your commitment was certainly not adequate since it led you to an action that is invalid, unfortunately. Furthermore, persons in whom you had legitimately placed your trust provided you with means of taking an action which is harmful to you in your journey of faith, by introducing a false contradiction between the laws of God and the laws of the Church.

The noble ideal of married life which you describe and which you wish to pursue is a beautiful and great challenge. For baptized persons, the grace of the sacrament of marriage represents the effective assistance of God’s love to help them travel along this often difficult road.

A shadow has been cast over the happy event of the commitment of your love by the unfortunate conduct of third parties who, more than you do, bear its responsibility. I encourage you to meet with a pastor of the Catholic Church who will be able to help you in an appropriate way to leave behind you what can only lead to a spiritual impasse.

Dear young people, I am well aware that you may have to take courageous actions. Be assured that I keep you in my prayer.

Terrence Prendergast, S.J.  
Archbishop of Halifax  
Pontifical Commissioner for the Sons of Mary