

The requirement that a priest (or other official Catholic witness, normally a deacon) witness a marriage is necessary only for marriages involving at least one Catholic. In all marriages, sacramental or not, the woman and man exchange consent and so enter into marriage. In marriages involving Catholics, the law of the Church obliges the woman and man to exchange their consent before two witnesses and an official Catholic witness (normally a priest or deacon) in order for that marriage to be valid. In marriages involving the Orthodox, the law of the Orthodox Church obliges the woman and man to exchange consent in an Orthodox Church and receive the blessing of the sacred minister (a bishop or priest) in order for that marriage to be valid.