



17th July, 2011

Does the Curia agree that the concordat should be reviewed? How does the Curia view the calls for the concordat to be reviewed?

The two parties entering Agreement were the Holy See and the Republic of Malta. It is up to these two parties to assess whether it is in their interest to review the current agreement in force, or not.

From the perspective of the Church in Malta, the current Agreement generally provides for couples, married in Church after 1993, and who are currently facing marital crisis from undergoing a double procedure for the declaration of nullity of their marriage, in both Ecclesiastical and Civil fora repeatedly. They are saved from undergoing the trauma of court litigation twice over, as well as having to fork out further expenses to achieve all this. The State normally recognizes the civil effects of the decisions issued by the Ecclesiastical Tribunal.

If specific elements in the Agreement could be enhanced, resulting in an authentic benefit for those currently resorting to the present Agreement, the Church would look positively upon such real improvements.

Particularly, at the current junction, while still awaiting the final outcome of the legislative process for a local divorce law, from a legal point of view various new scenarios could develop and the Church in Malta is confident that they will be duly addressed by both signatories of the current Agreement through the proper channels.

In following its mission, the Church is committed to operate, through its structures and organisms, in the best way possible to enhance the respect of human rights, particularly those lawfully enshrined in our Constitution.

If both Church and State aim at the keeping of fundamental human rights, guaranteeing thus the respect and dignity deserved by each person, this can be achieved even more through a healthy dialogue and collaborations between both. Such dialogue cannot be based on mere ideology. Nor can it be inconsiderate of the other's nature and role. It has to constantly focus on the real good of every person and respect all those conditions which render each person more human.