

§800 FACULTIES

The following faculties or permissions apply to all priests who are in good standing and who are incardinated in the Diocese or who have been approved by the Bishop to minister within the Diocese, even if they may be retired.

In a spirit of trust and in keeping with the principle of subsidiarity, every effort has been made to extend the discretionary authority of priests in the exercise of their ministry.

Whatever special faculties or permissions have been given to pastors apply also to parochial administrators. (c. 540, §1)

These faculties and permissions are effective May 29, 2025, and remain in effect until revoked.

Special Note

The faculties contained in this policy are in addition to the faculties ordinarily enjoyed by priests. According to canon law (c. 905, § 2) If there is a shortage of priests, the local ordinary can allow priests to celebrate twice a day for a just cause, or if pastoral necessity requires it, even three times on Sundays and holy days of obligation. The information contained in this section is, in many cases, repetitious of that in previous sections and has been included here for purposes of quick reference. Users are encouraged to consult specific sections for a more complete statement of Diocesan Policy and Procedures regarding sacramental matters.

§801 BAPTISM¹

801.1. *Faculty* To baptize those who are fourteen years of age or older.

Procedures

- a)** Without this faculty it would be necessary to refer such cases to the diocesan bishop or his delegate. (c. 863)
- b)** Canon 862 provides that outside the case of necessity; it is not lawful to confer baptism in the territory of another without permission.
- c)** As a rule, an adult is to be baptized in his or her own parish church. (c. 857, §2)
- d)** The sacrament of baptism is not to be conferred in a private house except in the case of necessity. (c. 860, §1)

¹Also see §100 *The Sacraments of Initiation*.

- e) Those fourteen or older are free to choose the rite (i.e., Latin Church or other Ritual Church) in which they wish to be baptized. (c. 111, §2)

§802 CONFIRMATION²

802.1. *Faculty* To confirm at the time they are licitly baptized or admitted into full communion with the Catholic Church those who are seven years of age or older. (c. 883, 2°)

Procedure

- a) The Ordinary minister of confirmation is the bishop. A priest who has this faculty by virtue of either the universal law or a special concession of competent authority may also confer this sacrament validly. (c. 882)

802.2. *Faculty* The faculty is granted to Pastors and Parochial Vicars to confirm Catholics who, although baptized earlier, have not been catechized in the Church, on the occasion of their reception into the Church at the Easter Vigil (c. 884).

Procedure

Outside of the Easter Octave, a special mandate must be obtained for a priest to confirm a person who was baptized previously in the Catholic Church but who was not catechized or simply was not previously confirmed (c. 884, §1; Com. Vat. II Interp., 21 December, 1979 (AAS 72:105))

802.3. *Faculty* To confirm those in danger of death. (c. 883, 3°)

§803 EUCHARIST³

803.1. *Faculty* To celebrate Mass twice on weekdays for a good reason and three times on Sundays or Holy Days if a pastoral need requires it. (c. 905, §2)

Procedures

- a) A priest should not celebrate more Masses than allowed by this faculty unless extraordinary reason requires it.
- b) Also see §203 *Mass Offerings*, herein.

803.2. *Faculty* To distribute the Eucharist under both species according to Diocesan Policies and Procedures. (c. 925; Gen Inst. Rom. Missal, Appendix, n. 242)

²Also see §100 *The Sacraments of Initiation*.

³Also see §100 *The Sacraments of Initiation* and §200 *The Sunday Eucharist and Other Liturgies*.

803.3. Faculty To appoint Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for a given particular occasion in cases of genuine necessity. (*Immensae Caritatis*, No. II) (See Policy 204.3.3., herein)

Procedures

Ordinarily, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are to receive their mandate from the Bishop or Vicar General and be commissioned at the parish or institution. (cc. 230, §3; 910, §2)

803.4. Faculty To dispense the faithful in individual cases from the Eucharistic fast for a proportionate reason. (cc. 89; 919, §1)

Procedures

A celebrant or concelebrant may consume food or drink between Masses when binating or trinating, even if the subsequent Mass is much later in the day. (c. 919, §9)

803.5. Faculty To organize public processions with the Blessed Sacrament outside of the church especially on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*) when the faithful would be well disposed to such celebrations. (c. 944, §1)

§804 RECONCILIATION⁴

804.1. Faculty To hear confessions of the Christian faithful within the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana. (c. 969, §1)

Procedures

- a) Pastors already have this faculty by law. (c. 967, §2 and 968, §1) It is hereby extended to other priests as well.
- b) In the administration of the sacrament, the confessor, as a minister of the Church, is to adhere faithfully to the doctrine of the magisterium and the norms enacted by the competent authority. (c. 978, §2)

804.2. Faculty To hear the confessions of the Christian faithful anywhere in the world (c. 967, §2), unless the local Ordinary has denied it in a particular case without prejudice to the prescripts of Canon 974, §§ 2 and 3. If the faculty is revoked, "...for a grave cause (c. 974 §1) a presbyter loses the faculty everywhere (c. 974 §2). If some other local ordinary has revoked the faculty, the presbyter loses it only in the territory of the one who revokes it.

⁴Also see §300 *The Sacrament of Penance*.

Procedures

This faculty is contingent upon the grant contained in Faculty 804.1.

804.3. Faculty To hear the confession of anyone in danger of death and to absolve from all sins and censures, even though one lacks the faculty to hear confessions and even if an approved priest is present. (c. 976)

Procedures

- a) This faculty is granted to all validly ordained priests by the law itself.
- b) See Appendix I for further explanation of censures.

804.4. Faculty To remit in the internal or external forum any automatic censure of excommunication or interdict provided that it is not reserved to the Apostolic See and has not been juridically declared.

Procedures

- a) By this faculty one may remit the excommunication attached to the procurement of an abortion (c. 1398) or that attached to apostasy, heresy, or schism. (c. 1364, §1)
- b) This faculty may be exercised anywhere in the world on behalf of those who are members of the Diocese or who incurred the penalty in the Diocese, and it may be exercised within the Diocese on behalf of anyone present here. (c. 1355, §2) A salutary penance should be imposed.

804.5. Faculty To remit in the internal sacramental forum any automatic censure of excommunication or interdict which has not been juridically declared, if it would be difficult for the penitent to remain in a state of serious sin during the time necessary for the competent authority to provide for the matter. (c. 1357, §1)

Procedures

This faculty is granted to confessors by the law itself. In view of Faculty 804.4., the chief application of this faculty would be the possibility of remitting censures reserved to the Apostolic See under the circumstances described and with the obligation of recourse within one month. (c. 1357, §2) An appropriate penance should be imposed and, where necessary, the reparation of any scandal or damage required.

§805 MATRIMONY⁵

805.1. Faculty For priests incardinated in the Diocese: to assist at all marriages within the Diocese when one party is of the Latin rite (or a rite under the care of the Latin rite Ordinary). (cc. 1108-1109)(See Policy 402.1., herein)

Procedures

- a) All incardinated priests of the Diocese, whether they are active or retired and whether they are in parochial or non-parochial assignments, enjoy this general faculty throughout the Diocese.
- b) For liceity, this faculty is to be exercised only with the consent of the local pastor or his delegate. Valid subdelegation of this faculty is limited solely to specified marriages within one's own parochial jurisdiction. The norms governing the place of celebration of marriage are to be faithfully observed. (c. 1118, §§1-3; See §404.3. *Place of Wedding*, for the policy of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana) Norms for subdelegation and the general faculties of pastors may be found under Faculty 805.2.

805.2. Faculty For priests who are not incardinated in the Diocese: to assist at marriages according to the following norms:

- (1) Pastors of territorial parishes have the faculty by law within their parish boundaries to assist validly at marriages of parishioners or non-parishioners provided one is Latin rite (or under the jurisdiction of the Latin rite ordinary). (c. 1109) For liceity, permission of the proper pastor is required. (c. 1115)
- (2) Pastors of non-territorial parishes or personal parishes can assist validly only at marriages within the limits of their jurisdiction involving at least one of their own parishioners. (c. 1110)
- (3) Associate pastors, by delegation from the Bishop, have the same faculties for assisting at marriages as the pastor with whom they are assigned. (c. 1111)
- (4) One who does not have a general faculty to assist at marriages (cf. Faculty 805.1.) and who performs a marriage outside his own jurisdiction (if any) must receive delegation from the pastor or associate pastor where the marriage is to take place. This is for validity. (c. 1108, §1)

Procedures

- a) Pastors have the faculty by law to delegate to specific priests or deacons to assist at marriages within their jurisdiction either by special delegation (i.e., for a specific marriage) or by general delegation (i.e., for all marriages). (c. 1111, §1) General delegation must be given in writing. (c. 1111, §2) If he so chooses, the pastor may delegate this power of delegation to other priests. (c. 137, §1)
- b) Associate pastors have the faculty to subdelegate specific priests or deacons to assist at specific marriages. This power may not be further delegated.

⁵Also see §400 *The Sacrament of Marriage*.

805.3. Faculty To dispense from canonical form and impediments solely of ecclesiastical origin⁶, except that of priesthood, those who are in danger of death. (c. 1079, §1)

Procedure

If this faculty is used, the Office of the Vicar General is to be notified within five days so that a proper record can be made. This faculty may be exercised anywhere for members of the Diocese, and it may be exercised within the Diocese for non-members.

805.4. Faculty Whenever an impediment is discovered after all the wedding preparations have been made and the marriage cannot be deferred without a probable danger of serious harm until a dispensation can be obtained by ordinary means from the competent authority, to dispense from all impediments solely of ecclesiastical origin, even public in nature, with the exception of impediments arising from sacred orders or from a vow of perpetual chastity in a religious institute, for marriages which one could otherwise witness validly. (cc. 1080. §1; 87, §2)

Procedure

Telephoning for a dispensation is considered to be an extraordinary means and so is not required. This faculty does not apply to dispensations from canonical form. It can be exercised only within the Diocese.

805.5. Faculty To witness in one's parish:

- a) The Marriage of Transients (c. 1071).
- b) The marriage of persons having obligations toward another person or toward children from a previous union provided those obligations are being met (1071); (if they are not being met, the case is to be referred to the Chancery).

805.6. Faculty To allow the celebration of a Nuptial Mass for the marriage of a Catholic with a baptized person who is not Catholic, provided the couple request it, circumstances justify it, and approved by the Bishop, Vicar General, or his delegate.

Procedures

- a) The Eucharist is not to be administered to non-Catholics except according to the provisions of Canon 844, §3. (See Faculty 810.1.)

⁶ Impediments solely of ecclesiastical origin are (c. 1041):

- a) Insanity or some other psychic defect (e.g., personality disorders.)
- b) The crime of apostasy, heresy, or schism.
- c) Attempted marriage.
- d) Homicide and abortion.
- e) Mutilation and attempted homicide.
- f) Abuse of Sacred Order.

- b) Ordinarily, in a marriage between a Catholic and a baptized person who is not Catholic, the Rite for Celebrating Marriage Outside Mass is to be used. In a marriage between a Catholic and one who is not baptized, Mass may not be celebrated. The Rite for Celebrating Marriage Between a Catholic and an Unbaptized Person is to be used.

805.7. Faculty To grant permission to a parishioner for his or her marriage to be celebrated elsewhere. (c. 1115)

Procedure

Marriages are to be celebrated in the parish of either the bride or the groom. Marriages can be celebrated elsewhere with the permission of the proper pastor. Pastors already have the authority by law to give this permission, and it is hereby extended to associate pastors as well.

§806 ANOINTING OF THE SICK

806.1. Faculty To carry the oil of the sick in order to anoint in case of necessity. (c. 1003, §3)

Note: This permission is granted to all priests by the law itself.

806.2. Faculty To bless olive oil or any natural vegetable oil in case of necessity but only in the celebration of the Anointing of the Sick. (c. 999, §2)

Note: This faculty is granted to all priests by the law itself.

806.3. Faculty To administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in a communal setting according to Diocesan Policies and Procedures. (c. 1002)

Procedure

Generally, the communal Anointing of the Sick should not take place during a regularly scheduled Sunday Mass or Holy Day Mass of obligation.

§807 CHRISTIAN BURIAL⁷

807.1. Faculty To permit the celebration of the rites of Christian burial, even with Mass, for a non-baptized child if the parents intended to have the child baptized. (c. 1183, §2)

⁷Also see §700 *The Order of Christian Funerals*.

807.2. Faculty To celebrate the rites of Christian burial, even with Mass, for a baptized non-Catholic who might reasonably be presumed to desire or prefer Catholic burial services. To celebrate the rites of Christian burial, but without Mass, for a baptized non-Catholic whose minister is unavailable, provided such arrangement would not be contrary to the will of the deceased. (c. 1183, §3)

Procedure

A decision to have Catholic burial services for a non-Catholic would be appropriate where the non-Catholic party worshipped regularly at the Catholic church or identified with the Catholic church more than any other. It would not be appropriate if the deceased were an active member of a non-Catholic Christian church unless a minister of that church was unavailable. This determination should be made in consultation with family members.

§808 PREACHING

808.1. Faculty To preach everywhere with at least the presumed consent of the pastor of a church unless restricted by the competent Ordinary. (c. 764)

Procedures

- a) Pastors or administrators have a responsibility to see that the Word of God is preached with integrity. (c. 528, §1) It is to be noted that the homily within Mass is to be given only by a priest or deacon. (c. 767, §1)
- b) To preach to religious in their own churches or oratories requires permission of the superior who is competent in accord with the norm of their constitutions. (c. 765)
- c) Preaching in ecumenical and inter-faith settings is covered in Faculty 810.3.

§809 OTHER POWERS OF DISPENSATION

809.1. Faculty To dispense in individual cases, one's subject, for a just reason from observing the Sunday or Holy Day obligation or to commute this obligation to other pious activities. (c. 1245) (c. 87 §1)

809.2. Faculty To dispense in individual cases for a just reason from the observance of penitential acts or to commute this obligation to other pious activities. (c. 1245)

809.3. Faculty To dispense from or commute any private vow or promissory oath for a just reason provided this does not harm any acquired rights of others. (cc. 1196, 1º, 3º; 1203)

Procedure

Pastors already have these faculties by law. They are hereby extended to all priests enjoying the faculties of the Diocese. They may be exercised anywhere for members of the Diocese, and they may be exercised within the Diocese for non-members.

§810 ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

810.1. Faculty To administer the sacraments of Eucharist, Penance, and Anointing of the Sick to members of the Eastern churches and members of other churches which in the judgment of the Apostolic See are in the same condition as the Eastern churches as far as these sacraments are concerned, when they spontaneously ask for these sacraments and are properly disposed. (c. 844, §3)

Procedure

This concession is given by the law itself. Respect should be shown for the policies of the Eastern churches, which may be more restrictive.

810.2. Faculty To administer the sacraments of Eucharist, Penance, and Anointing of the Sick to other Christians who do not have full communion with the Catholic Church who are in danger of death, when their own minister is lacking and they spontaneously ask for them, provided they are properly disposed and manifest the Catholic faith toward these sacraments. (c. 844, §4)

Procedure

This concession is given by the law itself. To administer the same sacraments other than in danger of death requires the prior judgment of the diocesan bishop that a grave necessity exists. (c. 844, §4)

810.3. Faculty With the consent of the authorities of the community concerned, to preach or act as reader during the official worship of other faiths or communions, except the celebration of the Lord's Supper or the principal Sunday Service of the Word; and to invite members of other communions to preach or act as reader during a Catholic non-eucharistic service, under the same conditions. (Ecumenical Directory, I, n. 56; Statement by Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, "On Sharing of Pulpits," June 22, 1972; Ecumenical Guidelines of the Province of Lafayette-in-Indiana (1986), n. 41)

Procedure

Ecumenical and inter-faith sharing in prayer (i.e., vespers services, Bible services, etc.) is permitted, even encouraged. Pulpit sharing at a Mass or principal Sunday Service may be very appropriate on occasion but is to be an exceptional occurrence.

For that reason, the law requires that a special dispensation be obtained in each case.

§811 LITURGY OF THE HOURS

811.1. *Faculty* A dispensation is given from praying the Liturgy of the Hours whenever one trinitates, and whenever one is present at an official clergy meeting, conference, or worship at which a portion of the Liturgy of the Hours or community prayer is incorporated.

Comment:

"A serious reason, be it of health, or of pastoral service in ministry, or of an act of charity, or of fatigue, not a simple inconvenience, may excuse the partial recitation and even the entire Divine Office, according to the general principle that establishes that a mere ecclesiastical law does not bind when a serious inconvenience is present."

"The total or partial omission of the Office due to laziness alone or due to the performance of activities of unnecessary diversion, is not licit, and even more so, constitutes an underestimation, according to the gravity of the matter, of the ministerial office and of the positive law of the Church."⁸

⁸ The obligation of the Liturgy of the Hours: Congregation for Divine Worship (Nov. 15, 2000)

APPENDIX I

A Brief Examination of Censures

There are various kinds of censures: excommunication, interdict, or suspension. These censures can be incurred automatically (latae sententiae), or they can be imposed after a canonical process (ferendae sententiae). In addition, it happens very rarely that the Church "declares" an automatic censure, i.e., the Church publicly draws attention to the fact that someone has incurred an automatic penalty.

Most censures that a confessor will deal with are automatic censures which have never been declared by the Church. Chiefly these would be the excommunication attached to the procurement of an abortion (c. 1398), or the excommunication attached to apostasy, heresy, or schism. (c. 1364, §1) By reason of these faculties of the Diocese, any confessor can absolve from these penalties.

I. Automatic Excommunications

Automatic excommunication is attached to the following offenses:

1. Apostasy, heresy, or schism. (c. 1364, §1)
2. Procuring an abortion. (c. 1398)

Automatic excommunication reserved to the Apostolic See is attached to these offenses:

1. Desecration of the sacred species (c. 1367);
2. Physical violence against the pope (c. 1370);
3. Attempted absolution of one's accomplice in a sin of impurity (c. 1378);
4. Unauthorized episcopal consecration (c. 1382);
5. Direct violation of the seal of confession (c. 1388).

An excommunicated person is forbidden:

1. To take any ministerial role in the Eucharist or any other act of public worship;
2. To celebrate the sacraments or sacramentals or receive the sacraments;
3. To discharge any ecclesiastical offices, ministries, or functions, or to place any acts of governance. (c. 1331, §1)

II. Automatic Interdicts

An automatic interdict is attached to these offenses:

1. Physical attack on a bishop (c. 1370, §2);
2. Attempted celebration of the Eucharist by a lay person (c. 1378, §2, 1°);
3. Attempted hearing of a sacramental confession or conferral of sacramental absolution by a lay person (c. 1378, §2, 2°);
4. Falsely accusing a confessor of solicitation (c. 1390, §1);
5. Attempted civil marriage by a religious in perpetual vows (c. 1394, §§1-2).

By reason of these faculties of the Diocese, any confessor can absolve from these automatic interdicts. Provided that the offense is not of an ongoing nature (e.g., attempted civil marriage perdures.)

A person under interdict is forbidden:

1. To take any ministerial role in the Eucharist or any other act of public worship;
2. To celebrate the sacraments or sacramentals or to receive the sacraments. (c. 1332)

III. Suspensions

The special faculties given to confessors in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana do not apply to **removal of** suspension of clerics, either automatic or imposed by a competent authority.

IV. Recourse

In view of the extensive faculties granted for the remission of automatic censures (cf. Faculty 804.4.), the probability of having to make recourse on behalf of a penitent is very slight. In those cases, the Office of the Vicar General may be consulted for advice.

APPENDIX II

Liturgical Faculties for Deacons

- 1.** To proclaim the Scriptures to the faithful; to teach the faithful after consultation with the pastor and his approval; to preach when the deacon is the presiding minister of a sacrament or liturgical rite; to preach at Eucharistic liturgies, with the approval of the pastor.
- 2.** To administer the Sacrament of Baptism at the request of the pastor.
- 3.** To distribute Holy Communion at Mass and to bring communion to the sick and dying, at the direction of the pastor.
- 4.** To be the official witness for weddings, with proper delegation.
- 5.** To assist in the liturgy of the Eucharist; to carry out with the priests of the parish the various liturgical roles in service at the altar (with proper liturgical dress); to preside at funeral and burial rites (liturgical wake services, non-Eucharistic funeral services, and cemetery services); to be of help to the pastor and priests of the parish in their assigned duties.
- 6.** To be the minister of Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and to conduct non-Eucharistic liturgical services.