



# Bismarck Diocese

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## Speaker Policy for the Bismarck Diocese

### Rationale

- Canon 386, §2 of the Code of Canon Law requires the Diocesan Bishop to defend the integrity and unity of the faith.
- Speaker approval avoids a difficult situation of having to dis-invite someone.

### Basic idea

- Speakers who are being considered to give a presentation on faith and morals on Church property must be approved by the Vicar General before an invitation is extended.
- Catholic parishes and schools cannot promote or sponsor a speaker unless he or she is approved.

### Speakers to which this policy applies

- Any speaker under consideration to give a presentation on matters of Catholic faith and morals who does not fall in the exempt category below.

### Speakers who are exempt (approval not necessary)

- Cardinals and Bishops in communion with the Holy See.
- Those who hold appointed or paid staff positions in the Bismarck Diocese in good standing.
- Priests/Deacons of the Bismarck Diocese in good standing.
- Diocesan School Faculty within the Bismarck Diocese in good standing.
- University of Mary Faculty in theology or religious studies already having a *mandatum* and who are in good standing.
- Members of Religious Communities in the Bismarck Diocese who are in good standing.
- Anyone already approved and hence posted upon the website of the Bismarck Diocese (cf. Approved Speakers List).

### Procedure

- Before a firm invitation is extended to the speaker, a request must be submitted to the Office of the Vicar General from the inviting party (preliminary contacts, checking speaker availability, etc. are ok).
- Items to include with the request:
  - a completed **Speaker Request Form** from the inviting party, which includes speaker's name and topic(s). It should attest to the speaker's fidelity to the

Magisterium, and the conformity of the topic to the pastoral direction of the Diocese.

- a *curriculum vitae* for the speaker.
- in the case of a lay person, a **Letter of Good Standing** from the speaker's pastor establishing that he/she is a Catholic in good standing.
- in the case of a cleric/religious from outside our diocese, a **Letter of Good Standing** from the speaker's superior/ordinary attesting that the speaker is a cleric/religious in good standing.
- college or university professors not already exempt should provide a *mandatum* from their bishop, if they have one. If not, please indicate that they do not have one.
- if the speaker is not a Catholic, the *curriculum vitae* should be accompanied by **written assurance** that the speaker's presentation will not conflict with Catholic teaching in any way.

Prepared by Office of Canonical Services and approved by Bishop Kagan on August 20, 2013.

Updated by Office of Canonical Services on August 4, 2017.

Updated by Office of Canonical Services on July 26, 2018 as per Bishop's order May 24, 2018.

Updated by the Office of the Chancellor and approved by Bishop Kagan on May 23, 2024.