

Faculties for Priests¹

Priests enjoy the following faculties in the Diocese of Fresno by either law or concession of this page. These faculties cease when revoked, when the time period of their concession expires, upon loss of the office which grants them by law, and/or when the ministry in the Diocese for which these faculties have been granted ceases.

Pastors (*canon 521*)

- By reason of office the habitual faculty to hear confessions.
- To baptize persons 14 and older without previously referring the matter to the diocesan bishop.
- To Confirm persons 14 and older whom they have baptized or received into full communion with the Catholic Church.
- To Confirm Catholics who, although baptized earlier, have not been reared in the Church, on the occasion of their being reconciled to the Church.
- To celebrate the Eucharist twice on weekdays and, if pastoral necessity requires it, three times on Sundays and holy days of obligation. (Stipends for the second and third celebrations are to be sent in to the Pastoral Center for the Priests' Retirement Fund.)
- To dispense from irregularities for the exercise of orders already received, in either the internal or external forum within the confines of the Diocese, and on behalf of any cleric regardless of his residence or the place where the irregularity was incurred, provided their dispensation is not reserved to the Apostolic See.
- To remit in the internal or external forum a *latae sententiae* penalty established by law but not yet declared, provided its remission is not reserved to the Apostolic See. This faculty can be exercised only within the boundaries of the Diocese and on behalf of any person, regardless of the person's residence or the place where the penalty was incurred.
- By reason of office to assist at marriages within their parish boundaries.
- Even in cases which are not occult, to dispense all the impediments to marriage which may be dispensed by the local ordinary, when everything has been prepared for the marriage and when the marriage cannot be delayed without the probable danger of grave harm until the dispensation can be obtained from the competent authority (canon 1080).
- To allow Catholic funeral rites for an unbaptized child if the parents had intended to have the child baptized.
- To allow Catholic funeral rites for a baptized person belonging to a non-Catholic church or ecclesial community provided this is clearly not contrary to the wishes of the deceased and provided a minister of his or her own faith is not available.
- To dispense, in individual cases and for a just reason, from the Eucharistic fast.
- By reason of office, to dispense in individual instances and for a just reason, from the obligation of observing a day of precept or a day of penance, or to commute the obligation into other pious works; this faculty may be exercised on behalf of a parishioner

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and of a person visiting within the boundaries of the parish.

- By reason of office to dispense from private vows made by a person belonging to the parish and also by a visitor within the territory of the parish provided the dispensation will not injure acquired rights of others.
- To commute to a lesser good what was promised by a private vow by a person belonging to the parish and also by a visitor within the territory of the parish.
- To suspend, dispense, or commute a promissory oath made by a person belonging to the parish and also by a visitor within the territory of the parish, provided the dispensation would not tend to prejudice those who refuse to remit its obligation.
- To preach the Word of God everywhere, with the at least presumed consent of the rector of the church, unless this faculty has been restricted or taken away by the competent ordinary or unless express permission is required by particular law (canon 764).
- To Confirm those in danger of death (canon 883, 3^o).

Parochial Vicars

- The habitual faculty to hear confessions.
- To baptize persons 14 and older without previously referring the matter to the diocesan bishop.
- To Confirm persons 14 and older whom they have baptized or received into full communion with the Catholic Church.
- To Confirm Catholics who, although baptized earlier, have not been reared in the Church, on the occasion of their being reconciled to the Church.
- To celebrate the Eucharist twice on weekdays and, if pastoral necessity requires it, three times on Sundays and holy days of obligation (stipends for the second and third celebrations should be sent in to the Pastoral Center for the Priests' Retirement Fund).
- To dispense from irregularities for the exercise of orders already received, in either the internal or external forum within the confines of the Diocese, and on behalf of any cleric regardless of his residence or the place where the irregularity was incurred, provided their dispensation is not reserved to the Apostolic See.
- To remit in the internal or external forum a *latae sententiae* penalty established by law but not yet declared, provided its remission is not reserved to the Apostolic See. This faculty can be exercised only within the boundaries of the Diocese and on behalf of any person, regardless of the person's residence or the place where the penalty was incurred.
- To assist at marriages within the boundaries of the parish to which they are assigned.
- Even in cases which are not occult, to dispense all the impediments to marriage which may be dispensed by the local ordinary, when everything has been prepared for the marriage and when the marriage cannot be delayed without the probable danger of grave harm until the dispensation can be obtained from the competent authority (canon 1080).
- Having received the permission of mixed religion from the ordinary or his delegate to permit the marriage of a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic to be celebrated
outside the parish church but in another Catholic church or oratory.

- To allow Catholic funeral rites for an unbaptized child if the parents had intended to have the child baptized.
- To allow Catholic funeral rites for a baptized person belonging to a non-Catholic church or ecclesial community provided this is clearly not contrary to the wishes of the deceased and provided a minister of his or her own faith is not available.
- To dispense, in individual cases and for a just reason, from the Eucharistic fast.
- To dispense in individual instances and for a just reason, from the obligation of observing a day of precept or a day of penance, or to commute the obligation into other pious works; this faculty may be exercised on behalf of a parishioner and of a person visiting within the boundaries of the parish.
- To dispense from private vows made by a person belonging to the parish and also by a visitor within the territory of the parish, provided the dispensation will not injure the acquired rights of others.
- To commute to a lesser good what was promised by a private vow by a person belonging to the parish and also by a visitor within the territory of the parish.
- To suspend, dispense, or commute a promissory oath made by a person belonging to the parish and also by a visitor within the territory of the parish, provided the dispensation would not tend to prejudice those who refuse to remit its obligation.
- To preach the Word of God everywhere, with the, at least presumed, consent of the rector of the church, unless this faculty has been restricted or taken away by the competent ordinary or unless express permission is required by particular law (canon 764).
- To Confirm a person who is no longer an infant and whom they have baptized or an already baptized person whom they admit into the full communion of the Catholic Church (canon 883 2a).
- To Confirm those in danger of death (canon 883, 3^o).

For Priests Approved for Sacerdotal Ministry in the Diocese of Fresno

- The habitual faculty to hear confessions.
- To baptize persons 14 and older without previously referring the matter to the diocesan bishop.
- To confirm persons 14 and older whom they have baptized or received into full communion with the Catholic Church.
- To confirm Catholics who, although baptized earlier, have not been reared in the Church, on the occasion of their being reconciled to the Church.
- To celebrate the Eucharist twice on weekdays and, if pastoral necessity requires it, three times on Sundays and holy days of obligation (stipends for the second and third celebrations should be sent in to the Pastoral Center for the Priests' Retirement Fund).
- To dispense from irregularities for the exercise of orders already received, in either the internal or external forum within the confines of the Diocese, and on behalf of any cleric regardless of his residence or the place where the irregularity was incurred, provided their

dispensation is not reserved to the Apostolic See.

- To remit in the internal or external forum a *latae sententiae* penalty established by law but not yet declared, provided its remission is not reserved to the Apostolic See. This faculty can be exercised only within the boundaries of the Diocese and on behalf of any person, regardless of the person's residence or the place where the penalty was incurred.
- To assist at marriages having received the proper permission and delegation but excluding that of canon 144.
- Even in cases which are not occult, to dispense all the impediments to marriage which may be dispensed by the local ordinary, when everything has been prepared for the marriage and when the marriage cannot be delayed without the probable danger of grave harm until the dispensation can be obtained from the competent authority (canon 1080).
- To allow Catholic funeral rites for an unbaptized child if the parents had intended to have the child baptized.
- To allow Catholic funeral rites for a baptized person belonging to a non-Catholic church or ecclesial community provided this is clearly not contrary to the wishes of the deceased and provided a minister of his or her own faith is not available. The priest may make pastoral exceptions to this at his judgment of pastoral necessity.
- To dispense, in individual cases and for a just reason, from the Eucharistic fast.
- To dispense in individual instances and for a just reason, from the obligation of observing a day of precept or a day of penance, or to commute the obligation into other pious works; this faculty may be exercised on behalf of a parishioner and of a person visiting within the boundaries of the parish.
- To dispense from private vows made by a person belonging to the parish and also by a visitor within the territory of the parish, provided the dispensation will not injure the acquired rights of others.
- To commute to a lesser good what was promised by a private vow by a person belonging to the parish and also by a visitor within the territory of the parish.
- To suspend, dispense, or commute a promissory oath made by a person belonging to the parish and also by a visitor within the territory of the parish, provided the dispensation would not tend to prejudice those who refuse to remit its obligation.
- To preach the Word of God everywhere, with the at least presumed consent of the rector of the church, unless this faculty has been restricted or taken away by the competent ordinary or unless express permission is required by particular law (canon 764).
- To Confirm a person who is no longer an infant and whom they have baptized or an already baptized person whom they admit into the full communion of the Catholic Church (canon 883 2^o).
- To Confirm those in danger of death (canon 883, 3^o).