

FACULTIES FOR PRIESTS

BAPTISM

1. The faculty is granted to pastors, parochial administrators and parochial vicars:

- to baptize one who has completed the fourteenth year, without previously referring the matter to the diocesan bishop.

Canon 863 requires the baptism of adults [at least those who have completed their fourteenth year] to be deferred to the diocesan bishop so that he himself administers baptism if he considers it expedient. This faculty allows the pastor, administrator and parochial vicar to baptize such a person without previous recourse to the bishop. Since adults should be immediately confirmed after baptism (c. 866), this faculty is not granted to deacons.

CONFIRMATION

2. The faculty is granted to parochial administrators and parochial vicars:

- to administer the sacrament of Confirmation to those persons who have attained the use of reason and whom they have baptized.
- to administer the sacrament of Confirmation to those persons who have attained the use of reason and are already baptized in another church or ecclesial community when they are received into full communion with the Church.

Canon 883, 2° grants to pastors the faculty to confirm adults they have baptized or received into full communion. This faculty to confirm adults whom they have baptized or received into full communion is extended by grant of the bishop to administrators and parochial vicars.

3. The faculty is granted by the law (c. 883, 3°) to the pastor or any presbyter:

- to administer the sacrament of Confirmation to those who are **in danger of death**.

NOTE: For a priest to confirm an adult who was baptized in the Catholic Church and is years later completing their sacramental initiation, a special faculty from the diocesan bishop must be requested in each case (c. 884 §1).

EUCHARIST

4. The faculty is granted to priests:

- to celebrate the Eucharist twice on weekdays and, if pastoral necessity requires it, three times on Sundays and holy days of obligation (c. 905 §2).

If pastoral necessity requires that a priest regularly celebrate more than two Masses on weekdays or more than three Masses on Sundays, the diocesan bishop may dispense in individual cases.

5. Permission is granted to pastors and parochial administrators:

- to celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper twice on Holy Thursday if there is an urgent pastoral need.

PENANCE

6. The faculty is granted to all priests that are not pastors:

- to hear confessions habitually. This faculty can be exercised everywhere unless the local ordinary has denied it in a particular case (c. 967 §2).

Canon 968 §1 grants the faculty to hear confessions habitually to local ordinaries, pastors and those who take the place of pastors in virtue of their office. This necessary faculty is extended by grant of the bishop to other priests (c. 969 §1).

[Priests who come into the diocese to give missions, retreats, etc. from outside the diocese automatically have the faculty to hear confessions **provided** they already possess the faculty to hear confessions from the own local ordinary of their place of incardination or domicile.]

7. The faculty is granted to all confessors:

- to remit in the internal sacramental forum any undeclared *latae sententiae* censure of excommunication or interdict if it is burdensome for the penitent to remain in the state of grave sin during the time necessary for the competent authority to make provision. This faculty is given by the law (c. 1357 §1).
- to remit in the internal sacramental forum the excommunication attached to the procurement of an abortion (c. 1398) or that attached to apostasy, heresy or schism (c. 1364 §1) without prior consultation with the bishop. (Without this faculty only the bishop could remit such a penalty.)

This faculty allows the confessor to remit the excommunication and grant absolution in the hearing of regularly scheduled confession. This does not remove the requirement of the confessor to notify the bishop of the remission, nor does it remove the necessity of imposing an appropriate penance. The confessor, respecting the sacramental seal, is to notify the bishop of the remission of the penalty. This faculty may be exercised within the diocese on behalf of any person regardless of his or her residence or the place where the penalty was incurred. The faculty may be exercised outside the diocese only when the penitent is a subject of the Diocese of Dodge City.

8. The faculty is granted by the law (c. 976) to any presbyter (even if he lacks the faculty to hear confessions):

- to absolve validly and licitly any penitent whatsoever **in danger of death** from any censures and sins, even if an approved priest is present.

ASSISTING AT MARRIAGES AND DELEGATION

9. The faculty is granted to parochial vicars:

- to assist at marriages within the boundaries of the parish to which they are assigned.
- Canon 1111 §1 grants the faculty to assist at marriages within their territory to local ordinaries and pastors in virtue of their office. This faculty by grant of the bishop extends general delegation to parochial vicars. However, it is valid only within the confines of the parish to which the parochial vicar is assigned.*

By reason of this faculty, parochial vicars may subdelegate to another qualified priest or deacon who enjoys faculties to witness a particular wedding.

Reminder:

- Visiting priests (from other dioceses or religious orders) must be delegated in writing for each and every wedding. It is not enough to grant them permission to come. To delegate, either complete Section F of our diocesan pre-nuptial form, or on a separate sheet of paper write: “I, _____, delegate (name of priest) to assist at the marriage of (groom and bride) at (name of church) on (date).” Sign and date.

- If you are requested to assist at a marriage outside the Diocese of Dodge City, you must be granted delegation from the local ordinary or pastor of the place of the marriage.

Faculty to Dispense (See Appendix for listing of impediments to marriage)

10. The faculty is granted by the law (1079 §2) to pastors and sacred ministers delegated to assist at marriages:

- to dispense **in urgent danger of death** both from canonical form and from all impediments of ecclesiastical law (except the impediment arising from sacred order of presbyterate), provided the local ordinary cannot be reached.

11. The faculty is granted by the law (c. 1079 §3) to confessors:

- to dispense, **in danger of death**, all impediments of ecclesiastical law (except the impediment arising from sacred order of presbyterate), provided the **impediment is occult**.

12. The faculty is granted by the law (c. 1080) to local ordinaries, pastors and sacred ministers delegated to assist at marriages **when an impediment is discovered after everything has been prepared for the wedding:**

- to dispense those about to be married (or the marriage convalidated) from all impediments of ecclesiastical law (except those arising from sacred orders or public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute of pontifical right), provided the marriage cannot be deferred without probable danger of grave harm until a dispensation can be obtained from the competent authority, provided the local ordinary cannot be reached, and **the case is an occult one**. [The case must be occult but not necessarily the impediment itself.]

13. The faculty is granted by the law (c. 1080) to confessors **when an impediment is discovered after everything has been prepared for the wedding:**

- to dispense those about to be married (or the marriage convalidated) from all impediments of ecclesiastical law (except those arising from sacred orders or public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute of pontifical right), provided the marriage cannot be deferred without probable danger of grave harm until a dispensation can be obtained from the competent authority, and **the case as well as the impediment is occult**.

14. The faculty is granted by law (c. 1118 §1) to pastors:

- to permit the marriage of two Catholics or a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic to take place in a [Catholic] church or oratory other than the parish church.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK (these are contained in the law)

15. All priests to whom the care of souls has been entrusted have the duty and right of administering the anointing of the sick for the faithful entrusted to this pastoral office (c. 1003 §2).

16. Any priest is permitted to carry blessed oil with him so that he is able to administer the sacrament of anointing of the sick in case of necessity (c. 1003 §3).

17. Any presbyter in case of necessity can bless the oil to be used in the anointing of the sick, but only in the actual celebration of the sacrament (c. 999, 2°).

ECCLESIASTICAL FUNERALS

18. The faculty is granted to pastors, parochial administrators and parochial vicars:

- to allow an ecclesiastical funeral to be celebrated for an unbaptized child, if the parents had intended to have the child baptized.
- to allow an ecclesiastical funeral to be celebrated 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 the deceased's own minister is unavailable.

Canon 1183 §§2-3 reserves these faculties to the local ordinary. These faculties are hereby extended by grant of the bishop to pastors, administrators and parochial vicars.

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

DISPENSATION FROM EUCHARISTIC FAST

19. The faculty is granted to pastors, parochial administrators and parochial vicars:

- to dispense, in individual cases and for a just reason, from the Eucharistic fast.

Canon 919 §1 notes the requirement of anyone who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist to abstain from any food and drink (except for water and medicine) for one hour before receiving holy communion. This faculty allows for the dispensation of this fast in individual cases and for a just reason.

DISPENSATION FROM PRIVATE VOWS AND OATHS

20. Canons 1196, 1° and 1197 grants the faculty to the local ordinary and pastor:

- to dispense from private vows, or to commute the work promised by the vow to a lesser good, provided the dispensation or commutation does not injure a right acquired by others.
- to dispense or commute a promissory oath provided the dispensation or commutation does not tend to the disadvantage of others who refuse to remit the obligation of the oath.

Canon 1203 grants to those who have the power to dispense or commute private vows the same power in the matter of promissory oaths.

DISPENSATION FROM A DAY OF PRECEPT OR DAY OF PENANCE

21. The faculty is granted to parochial administrators and parochial vicars:

- to dispense, in individual cases 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 a person visiting within the boundaries of the parish.

Canon 1245 grants this faculty to pastors. This faculty is hereby extended by grant of the bishop to administrators and parochial vicars.

APPENDIX

IMPEDIMENTS TO MARRIAGE

A diriment impediment renders a person unqualified to contract marriage validly (c. 1073).

Canonical tradition has used various distinctions to classify impediments, the most important of which are those considered to be founded in divine law and those established by positive ecclesiastical law alone. The implications of this distinction are two-fold:

- 1) to the extent that impediments derive from divine law, they bind all persons, whether baptized or not, whether they marry Catholics or not; ecclesiastical law impediments bind only Catholics and non-Catholics who marry them.
- 2) In principle, ecclesiastical law impediments are subject to dispensation; impediments said to be of divine law are not.

An impediment is considered occult when it is not provable in the external forum (i.e., through written documents or testimony of witnesses) (c. 1074).

Impediments of Ecclesiastical Law/Dispensed by Local Ordinary

1. Insufficient Age (c. 1083 §2) (man before completing 16th year, woman before completing 14th year). [*No ecclesiastical authority below the level of the episcopal conference may establish an age for marriage higher than the one established in universal law; however, local ordinaries can prohibit the celebration of particular marriages until the young people give evidence of the required maturity (c. 1077).*]
2. Disparity of Cult (c. 1086 §1)
3. Public Perpetual Vow of Chastity (c. 1089) in a religious institute of diocesan right.
4. Abduction (c. 1089) of a woman by a man with a view of contracting marriage.
5. Consanguinity (c. 1091) in the third degree (uncle-niece) and fourth degree (first cousins) of the collateral line.
6. Affinity (c. 1092) in the direct line (e.g., wife's mother or daughter). [*Affinity arises from a valid marriage between the man and the blood relatives of the woman and between the woman and the blood relatives of the man.*]
7. Public Propriety (c. 1093) in the first degree of the direct line (e.g. partner's parent or child). [*Public propriety arises from an invalid marriage after common life has been established or from notorious public concubinage.*]
8. Adoptive relationship (c. 1094) in the direct line or in the second degree of the collateral line (i.e. adopted persons cannot validly marry their adoptive parents and grandparents or their adoptive siblings. The adoption, however, must be recognized in civil law for the impediment to be established.)

Impediments of Ecclesiastical Law/Dispensation reserved to Apostolic See

1. Holy Orders (c. 1087)
2. Public Perpetual Vow of Chastity (c. 1088) in a religious institute of pontifical right.
3. Crime (c. 1090) (murder or conspiracy to murder with a view to enter marriage).

Impediments founded in Divine Law/No Dispensation

1. Impotence (c. 1084 §1) (antecedent and perpetual)
2. Bond of prior marriage (c. 1085 §1) [*The prenuptial documents must include a declaration of nullity or a certificate of death for any prior or attempted marriage, even civil.*]
3. Consanguinity (c. 1091) in the direct line (ancestor-descendent) and second degree in the collateral line (brother-sister).