



## NORMS FOR THOSE EXERCISING MINISTRY WITHIN *THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS*

Any priest, deacon, religious (brother/sister), or lay person, who resides outside the Diocese of Victoria and either requests or is invited to enter into the diocese to teach/preach on faith, morals, and/or liturgy within a parish, Catholic school, religious house, or diocesan event, must receive appropriate permission (cf. CIC 756-772). The following norms apply to those seeking to exercise ministry within the Diocese of Victoria in Texas:

1. Any **cleric**, who is invited into the diocese to function in any kind of official capacity, must present proof of possessing the faculties of his own diocese of incardination and forward to the Office of the Chancellor a diocesan approved *Letter of Good Standing and Testimonial of Suitability for Ordained Ministry*. (cf. CIC 386.1, 903).
2. **Clerics belonging to a religious order or institute of consecrated life**, seeking permission to teach/preach in the diocese, must forward to the Office of the Chancellor a *Letter of Good Standing and Testimonial of Suitability for Ordained Ministry* from his major/local superior.
3. A **religious brother/sister** must present a *Letter of Good Standing* from his/her superior to the Office of the Chancellor, prior to the scheduled event.
4. All **lay faithful** invited to teach in the Diocese of Victoria are to submit to the Office of the Chancellor a letter of endorsement from his/her bishop and/or pastor testifying to their fidelity to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.
5. Pastors may grant permission for priests to *concelebrate* a wedding Mass/service, a funeral Mass or a Sunday/Weekday Mass, and for deacons to assist at such Masses and celebrations, on a *one time basis*, without obtaining the necessary documentation prescribed in paragraphs 1-2.
6. Before any request for **diocesan publication/advertisement** (diocesan website, newspaper, social media) for an event can be granted, with an invited speaker from outside the Diocese of Victoria, approval for the speaker must be obtained from the Office of the Chancellor.
7. In addition to the above norms, **Institutes of Consecrated Life located within the Diocese of Victoria** intending to invite speakers to teach/preach in their communities, are to inform the Office of the Chancellor, and in this manner obtain the Bishop's consent.
8. In addition to the above norms, if a person from outside the diocese (clergy, religious or lay) is invited to address a **diocesan event, assembly or convention**, the Office of the Chancellor must be consulted and, in this manner, obtain the Bishop's consent. This permission must be obtained *PRIOR* to extending the invitation to the speaker.
9. **ALL** permissions/approvals/letters of endorsement **MUST** be dated within a year of the intended event(s)
10. Clerics, religious or members of the laity, who have obtained permission to preach, teach or provide any type of ministry in the Diocese of Victoria, do not have to submit the required documentation or seek permission, if they return to the Diocese of Victoria within the course of the same calendar year.

*Approved and promulgated by Bishop Cahill on March 2, 2016*