

**FACULTIES OF PRIESTS  
DIOCESE OF SPOKANE**

**Most Rev. Thomas A. Daly**

**Bishop of Spokane**

To:

In virtue of ordination to the Priesthood you are commissioned to the service of the Church:

- to discharge without fall the office of priesthood in the presbyteral order as a conscientious fellow worker with the Bishop to caring for the Lord's flock.
- to celebrate the mysteries of Christ faithfully and religiously as the Church as handed them down to us for the glory of God and the sanctification of Christ's people.
- to exercise the ministry of the word worthily and wisely, preaching the Gospel and explaining the Catholic faith in accord with the magisterial teaching of the church.

In order to promote the pastoral care of the People of God and as an expression of your participation in the active ministry of the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Spokane, I am pleased to issue you the attached "faculties."

These faculties are valid for the duration of your priestly ministry to this Diocese, or until revoked, whether you are a priest of the Diocese of Spokane, from another diocese, or a member of a religious community assigned to the diocese by your Superior.

Given at Spokane, Washington, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

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+Most Rev. Thomas A. Daly

SEAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chancellor

Revised (6/4/2015)

**FACULTIES OF THE PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE OF SPOKANE**

A. These faculties concern priests incardinated in the Diocese of Spokane and priests, both secular and religious, who are not incardinated but whose appointment to pastoral ministry in the diocese of Spokane has been made or approved by the Diocesan Bishop. Religious priests assigned by their proper ordinaries to houses in the Spokane Diocese enjoy the faculties mentioned in nn. 4, 5, 6, and 15.

B. Only priests who hold the offices of pastor or parochial vicar (i.e., assistant, associate, curate) are intended when these titles are used. Other priests do not enjoy the faculty which is indicated.

C. Faculties and privileges already granted to priests by universal law (e.g., the faculty to preach, C. 764, the faculty to anoint the sick, C. 1003) are not mentioned except to make clear the provisions of a particular faculty.

D. If a faculty is granted to the parochial vicar without mention of the pastor, it invariably means that the pastor already enjoys the faculty by universal law (e.g., nn.7, 17).

E. Canons relating to the faculties are in parentheses. The Code of Canon Law and a commentary may be consulted for a more detailed explanation.

F. These faculties are not granted to nor may they be exercised by any priest, secular or religious, who is impeded from the exercise of orders, irregular for the exercise of orders, or constrained by a canonical penalty, precept or other provision from the exercise of sacred orders. (revised 6/2009)

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In addition to the rights and privileges granted to priests by reason of the universal law of the Church, the following faculties are granted to the priests serving in the Diocese of Spokane:

1. The faculty is granted to pastors and parochial vicars (i.e., assistants, associates) to baptize one who has completed the fourteenth year, without previously referring the matter to the diocesan bishop. (C. 863)

2. The faculty is granted to parochial vicars to administer the sacrament of confirmation to those persons who have attained the use of reason and whom they baptize. Pastors and parochial vicars are also given the faculty to confirm those persons who have attained the use of reason and are already baptized in another church or ecclesial community, when they are received by them into full communion with the Church. (CC. 530 n. 1; 866; 883 n. 2; 885)

3. The faculty is granted to pastors and parochial vicars to administer the sacrament of confirmation to baptized Catholics who have participated in the parish's catechumenate program. (C. 882)

4. The faculty is granted to priests, for a good reason, to celebrate the Eucharist twice on weekdays and, if a pastoral necessity requires it, three times on Sundays and holy days of obligation. (C. 905)

5. The habitual faculty to hear confessions is granted to priests. By virtue of the grant of this faculty, priests incardinated or with domicile in the diocese of Spokane may exercise this faculty everywhere, unless a local ordinary denies it in a particular case (cf. CC. 967.2; 969.1)

6. The faculty is granted to confessors to remit in the internal or external forum the *latae sententiae* penalties of excommunication or interdict established by the law but not yet declared, provided the remission is not reserved to the Apostolic See.

This faculty may be exercised only within the confines of the diocese, and on behalf of any person regardless of the person's residence or the place where the penalty was incurred. (In practical terms, this empowers a confessor to remit the non-declared *latae sententiae* penalty of excommunication for the crime of abortion, without requiring recourse to the local ordinary, cf. C. 1357.2).

7. The faculty is granted to parochial vicars to assist at marriages within the boundaries of the parish to which they are assigned. (CC. 1108.1; 1111)

8. The faculty is granted to pastors to dispense from the impediment of disparity of cult, provided the conditions of Canon 1125 have been fulfilled. The pastor may grant this dispensation only for those marriages which take place within his parish. (CC. 1078.1; 1086)

9. The faculty is granted to pastors to permit the marriage between two baptized persons, one of whom was baptized in the Catholic Church or received into it after baptism and who has not departed from the Church by a formal act, and the other of whom belongs to a church or ecclesial community not in full communion with the Catholic Church. This permission is not to be given unless the conditions mentioned in Canon 1125 are fulfilled. The pastor may grant this permission only for those marriages which take place within his parish. (C. 1124)

10. The faculty is granted to pastors to permit the marriage of a person who is bound by natural obligations toward another party or toward children, arising from a prior union. The pastor may grant this permission only for those marriages which take place within his parish. (C. 1071.1 n.3)

11. The faculty is granted to parochial vicars to allow the marriage of a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic to be celebrated outside the parish church but in another Catholic Church or oratory (C. 1118.1) \*

12. The faculty is granted to pastors and parochial vicars to permit a non-Catholic minister to participate in the marriage service when the Catholic canonical form of marriage is observed. The minister may offer additional prayers, blessings, or words of greeting or exhortation. The priest alone asks for the parties' consent and receives it in the name of the Church.

In the case where there has been a dispensation from the Catholic canonical form of marriage and the priest has been invited to participate in the non-Catholic marriage service, with the consent of the appropriate authority of the other church, he may do so by offering additional prayers, blessings, or words of greeting or exhortation. (Cf. Ecumenical Directory, Part I, n. 56; NCCB Norms for Mixed Marriage, nn. 15,16; C. 1127.3. N.B. The dispensation from the Canonical form of marriage is granted by the local ordinary of the Catholic party.)

13. The faculty is granted to pastors and parochial vicars to allow church funeral rites for an unbaptized child, if the parents intended to have the child baptized. (C. 1183.2)

14. The faculty is granted to pastors and parochial vicars to allow church funeral rites for a baptized person belonging to a non-Catholic church or ecclesial community, provided this is not clearly contrary to the wishes of the deceased and provided a minister of the faith of the deceased is not available. (C. 1183.3)

15. The faculty is granted to priests to dispense, in individual cases and for a just reason, from the Eucharistic fast. (C. 919.1)

16. The faculty is granted to 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 or a person visiting within the boundaries of the parish. (C. 1245)

17. Pastors are granted the faculty to authorize qualified lay persons as special (extraordinary) ministers of Holy Communion and to commission them to this ministry in accord with the approved rite (CC 230.3; 910.2).

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Most Rev. Thomas A. Daly  
Bishop of Spokane

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

*\* Because of the revised Policy for Marriage adopted on Feb. 28, 2002, priests and deacons must request permission from the Local Ordinary for the celebration of marriage in a place other than a Catholic church or public Catholic chapel. Formerly, pastors and parochial vicars had been granted this faculty. Cf. policy 4.05.02.*