

**FACULTIES FOR PRIESTS FOR THE DIOCESE OF LAS CRUCES****As Ministers of the Sacrament of Baptism:**

Priests incardinated and those who enjoy faculties in the Diocese of Las Cruces may minister the sacrament of baptism to both infants and adults if the local pastor where the baptism takes place gives his consent. The baptism is to be registered by the priest in the records of the parish where the sacrament was celebrated. If the baptism took place in a hospital which keeps its own records, then the baptism is to be recorded at the hospital.

It is illicit for a priest to confer the sacrament of baptism in another parish without prior permission even if the parents are his own subjects.

**As Ministers of the Sacrament of Confirmation:**

Priests incardinated and those who enjoy faculties in the Diocese of Las Cruces are to confer the sacrament of confirmation for adults as well as children of catechetical age whom they baptize at the time of celebration of the sacrament of baptism. Priests are also to celebrate the sacrament of confirmation for adults and children of catechetical age whom they receive into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Priests have the faculty of administering the sacrament of confirmation to those who are in danger of death.

It is the obligation of the priest conferring the sacrament to ensure that it is properly recorded in the parish records.

Priests also have the faculty to confirm adults who were baptized Catholics in infancy but who were never catechized nor fully initiated into the Church and are now wishing to complete their initiation. Not only is the sacrament to be recorded in the parish where it was conferred but also the priest is to notify the parish of baptism of the conferral of the sacrament of confirmation.

**As Presiding Ministers of the Eucharistic Liturgy:**

Priests incardinated and those who enjoy faculties in the Diocese of Las Cruces may binate on weekdays and trinate on Sundays when pastoral need requires it.

A priest who celebrated Mass more than once on the same day may apply the individual Mass for the intention for which the offering is made, but with the law that, except on Christmas, he may retain the offering for only one Mass, giving the other offerings to The Pastoral Center monthly. Convenient cards for this monthly reporting and payment are available from The Pastoral Center. These stipends are used for the education of seminarians.

Pastors and others who are required to celebrate the Mass for the people may celebrate it on a day other than that specified by law whenever it is difficult to offer it on the day appointed, providing that the obligation is fulfilled within a week.

Pastors and others, however, who are required by law to celebrate the Mass for the people on Sundays and holy days, may take an offering for a second Mass they celebrate that day.

Priests who celebrate Mass two or three times on the same day are not bound by the law of abstinence from food for one hour prior to receiving Holy Communion.

Priests may admit members of the Eastern Orthodox Churches to Holy Communion when the following conditions are fulfilled:

1. They ask for the sacrament on their own accord.
2. Either there is a serious inconvenience in their having recourse to a priest of their own community or they ask on the occasion of some important personal event which is being celebrated in the Catholic Church; e.g., their wedding, the First Communion of their child.

Priests may admit protestant brethren to Holy Communion only when all of the following conditions are present:

1. They have a faith in the Eucharistic Presence of Christ which is in conformity with the doctrine of the Catholic Church.
2. They experience a serious spiritual need for the Eucharist.
3. They are for a prolonged period unable to have recourse to a minister of their own community.
4. They ask for the sacrament of their own accord.

In cases where there is doubt regarding fulfillment of these conditions, The Pastoral Center is to be consulted.

#### As Ministers of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:

Priests incardinated and those who enjoy faculties in the Diocese of Las Cruces validly administer the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. All priests to whom the care of souls has been committed have the duty and the right to administer the anointing of the sick to all the faithful committed to their pastoral office; for a reasonable cause any other priest can administer this sacrament with at least the presumed consent of the aforementioned priest. Every priest is allowed to carry blessed oil in his car so that he can administer the sacrament of the anointing of the sick in case of necessity.

#### As Ministers of the Sacrament of Penance:

All priests who have the faculties of the Diocese of Las Cruces or elsewhere possess the habitual faculty of celebrating the sacrament of penance for all. In virtue of this habitual faculty these priests possess the faculty to celebrate the sacrament of penance everywhere unless the local ordinary has denied this faculty in a particular case. This faculty also enables priests to absolve from the latae sententiae excommunication arising from procuring an abortion.

#### As Ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage:

Pastors are never to permit any Catholic wedding within their territory unless the parties to the

marriage have fulfilled the requirements of pre-marital preparations of the Diocese of Las Cruces.

Parochial vicars have the faculty to validly witness marriages within the limits of the parish to which they have been assigned.

Both pastors and parochial vicars may delegate an individual priest to assist at a specific marriage in their parish. The one delegated may also subdelegate another priest or deacon to assist at a specific marriage if there is a need. However, the one subdelegated may not further delegate.

They may also dispense, for a sufficiently serious reason, from the publication of all three bans of marriage without reference to the tribunal office. (Notation of dispensation is to be made in the prenuptial files and in the Marriage Registry Book.)

They may dispense, omnia parata sunt if recourse to the local ordinary is impossible, from all impediments of ecclesiastical law except the impediment arising from sacred ordination to the priesthood and diaconate as well as from the impediment arising from a public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute of pontifical right. Neither may they dispense from the canonical form of marriage. A dispensation is never given from the impediment of consanguinity in the direct line or in the second degree of the collateral line.

In danger of death, the pastor, properly delegated sacred minister, priest, or deacon who assists at matrimony also possess the faculty to dispense from the form prescribed for the celebration of matrimony and from each and every impediment of ecclesiastical law, whether public or occult, except the impediment arising from sacred order of presbyterate. Therefore, in this case the priest/deacon can dispense also from a public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute of pontifical right. Specifically excluded would be prohibitions of divine law: consanguinity in the direct line, in the second degree of the collateral line (brother and sister), and previous bond.

Reporting the granted dispensation to the tribunal office is the obligation of the priest who has granted the dispensation. It is still necessary to record dispensations granted in the above manner in the records kept in the tribunal office as well as the parish marriage register. A note of explanation should be included when sending the case to the tribunal office.

#### As Ministers of the Word of God:

Priests incardinated and those who enjoy faculties in the Diocese of Las Cruces possess the faculty to preach everywhere, to be exercised with at least the presumed consent of the pastor of the parish.

Among the forms of preaching, the homily is preeminent; it is a part of the liturgy itself and is to be reserved to priests and deacons.

#### As Ministers of the Blessing of the Church:

Priests incardinated and those who enjoy faculties in the Diocese of Las Cruces may impart all blessings permitted them by the Roman Ritual, may bless and impose the scapulars, may bless all sacred furnishings that do not require consecration with holy oil. They may also erect and bless the Stations of the Cross within the territory of their parish. They may not bless a new church or oratory, a new cemetery, or impart the reserved papal blessings.

As Officiants of the Liturgy of the Hours:

Priests incardinated and those who enjoy faculties in the Diocese of Las Cruces may omit the recitation of the office on the following days:

1. When they attend or participate in funeral or nuptial Masses, Forty Hours Devotions or their equivalent, Rites of Confirmation.
2. When they binate or trinate.
3. When they attend a formal gathering of priests; e.g., clergy convocations, vicariate meetings, presbyteral council meetings, etc.
4. When they celebrate the sacrament of penance for two hours or more.