

Pagella of Faculties for Deaconsⁱ

1. Faculties granted at Ordination

You have the following faculties from the moment of your ordination. You may use them anywhere in the world with at least the presumed consent of the pastor or rector of the church.

Ministry of the Word

- 1.1 You may catechise and preach to the faithful apart from the liturgy (can.757, 762; SDO 22,6)
- 1.2 You may preside at the liturgy of the hours, celebrations of the word, and Sunday celebrations in the absence of a priest where this is permitted; you may preach at the liturgies at which you preside (GILH 254; SDO 22 nn7-8, DSCAP 29; can764)
- 1.3 You may proclaim the Gospel at Mass; you may give the homily at Mass at the discretion of the priest celebrant (GIRM 171c, 175)

Sacraments

- 1.4 You may administer the sacrament of baptism to infants-those under seven and those lacking the use of reason (can 861 §1).
- 1.5 You may assist the presiding bishop or priest at Mass and other liturgical celebrations as indicated in the rites (SDO 22.1, GIRM 171)
- 1.6 You may administer holy communion at Mass (Can 910 §1, GIRM 182)
- 1.7 You may preside at the Rite of Distribution of Holy Communion outside of Mass, you may bring holy communion to the sick and infirm as viaticum (HCWE 17, 26; PCS 81-96).

Sacramentals

- 1.8 You may preside at benediction and give the blessing with the reserved Eucharist (can 943).
- 1.9 You may celebrate the minor exorcisms and blessings of catechumens (RCIA 91, 96; OICA 109, 119).
- 1.10 You may give the blessings at the rites at which you preside; you may preside at other blessings according to the rite of blessings (DB/BB 18c)
- 1.11 You may preside at penitential celebrations when the sacrament of penance is not celebrated (RP 36-37).
- 1.12 You may celebrate the rites for visits to the sick and the prayers on the occasion of death (OUI 138, 151; PCS 212, 221).
- 1.13 When a priest is unavailable, you may preside at funeral rites-the vigil, funeral liturgy outside Mass, and committal (OE 19; OCF 14).

1.14 You may celebrate or impart other sacramentals in accord with the law (cc1168, 1169 §3).

2. Faculties for use in danger of death

You also have the following faculties from the moment of your ordination, but they may only be used if someone is in danger of death. These faculties may be used anywhere in the world with at least the presumed consent of the pastor.

Baptism

2.1 If a priest is not available you may validly baptise anyone not yet validly baptised, including a foetus, provided the person is alive (can 861 §2, 868 §2, 871). Those who had the use of reason at any time in their life may not be baptised without having manifested this intention; they must also have some knowledge of the principal truths of the faith and must promise to observe the commandments of the Christian religion (can 865 §2).

Viaticum

2.2 You may celebrate the Rite of Viaticum Outside of Mass (PCS 197-211), except the apostolic pardon, with at least the presumed consent of the pastor, chaplain or superior, who must be notified afterwards (can 911 §2; PCS 197-211). You may also give viaticum to any baptised person (Christian) who is in danger of death and freely makes a request, manifests some Catholic faith in the sacrament and where there is no possibility of pastoral care by a minister of the other church or ecclesial community (can 844 §§3,4, SPCU instruction 5, June 1, 1972).

Commendation of the Dying

2.3 You may celebrate the Rite of Commendation of the Dying (OUI 142; PCS 165, 212-222).

Marriage dispensations

2.4 Even if you lack the faculty to assist at marriage, when one or both parties is in danger of death and when the local ordinary cannot be reached, you may dispense the parties to marriage both from the form to be observed in the celebration of the marriage and from every impediment of ecclesiastical law, whether public or occult, except the impediment arising from the Holy Orders (can 1079 §2).

3. Faculties granted by the diocesan bishop

You also have the following faculties granted by the diocesan bishop. These faculties may be used within the boundaries of the diocese.

Baptism in a private home

3.1 You may confer infant baptism in a private house for a grave reason that makes it difficult or dangerous for the infant to be brought to the church (can 860 §1; RBC 12). This faculty may only be used within the territory of the parish to which you are appointed or within the limits of the pastoral community to which you are assigned.

Participation of a Christian Minister in Baptism

3.2 For pastoral reasons, in particular circumstances, you may invite a minister of another church or ecclesial community to take part in the celebration of baptism by reading a text of Scripture, offering a prayer or the like. The actual baptism is to be celebrated by the Catholic minister alone (DAPNE 97).

Sacramental sharing in cases of grave need

3.3 Observing the conditions of can 844 §4, you may administer holy communion to validly baptised Christians who are in danger of death or who live in areas where they have no regular access to a minister of their own. The conditions determined by the episcopal conference and the diocesan bishop also being observed.

Faculty to assist at marriage

3.4 Within the territory of the parish, you may validly assist at marriages involving at least one partner who is Catholic in the Latin Church (can 1108, 1111) having in mind also the law of the Eastern Catholic Churches if the groom is from an Eastern Catholic Church (GFM 15.7). This faculty may be used elsewhere when you receive a delegation from the pastor of that place.

Dispensation from impediments

3.5 Whenever an impediment has been discovered after everything has already been prepared for the wedding, and the marriage cannot be delayed without probable danger or grave harm until a dispensation is obtained from the competent authority (and the parish priest is not available), you may dispense in occult cases from all impediments except prior bond, impotence, consanguinity in the direct line and the second degree of the collateral line, holy orders, public perpetual vow of chastity in a religious institute of pontifical right (can 1080 §1). You may dispense either Catholic party, even if they live outside the boundary of the parish to which you are appointed, provided the marriage takes place in that parish, and you may dispense parishioners even if the marriage is lawfully celebrated outside the parish.

Participation of a non-Catholic minister

3.6 upon the request of a couple, and if you have the faculty to assist at marriage, even by special delegation, you may invite the minister of the party of the other church or ecclesial community to participate in the celebration of the marriage by reading from scripture, giving a brief exhortation, and or blessing the couple (DAPNE 158)

Funerals with cremated remains

3.7 When a priest is unavailable, you may celebrate the funeral liturgy in the presence of cremated remains of a deceased person, taking into account the concrete circumstances in each individual case and always observing the following conditions: (1) There is no anti-Christian motive in choosing cremation (can 1176 §3). (2) The cremated remains will be handled with respect and buried or entombed at a place for this purpose. (3) There is no other canonical prohibition of a funeral liturgy, namely, for notorious apostates, heretics, and schismatics and other manifest sinners for whom ecclesiastical funerals cannot be granted without public scandal to the faithful (can 1184). Doubtful cases are to be referred to the bishop or his nominated delegate.

Ecumenical meetings

3.8 You may take part in meetings with other Christians aimed at improving ecumenical relations and resolving pastoral problems in common (DAPNE 91b)

4. DEACONS APPOINTED PASTORAL LEADERS OF A PARISH

Any deacon appointed to the pastoral care of a parish (can 517 §2) will in addition to the *pagella* to be given to all deacons, require a separate set of faculties.

Directory (1998) 41: The bishop may give deacons the task of co-operating with a parish priest in the parish entrusted to him or in the pastoral care of several parishes entrusted in *solidum* to one or more priests.

Where permanent deacons participate in the pastoral care of parishes which do not, because of a shortage, have the immediate benefit of a parish priest, *they always have precedence over the non-ordained faithful*. In such cases, it is necessary to specify that the moderator of the parish is a priest and that he is its proper pastor. To him alone has been entrusted the *cura animarum*, in which he is assisted by the deacon.

Mysterio de ecclesia Article 4

§ 1. The right understanding and application of this canon, according to which "si ob sacerdotum penuriam Episcopus dioecesanus aestimaverit participationem in exercitio curae pastoralis paroeciae concedendam esse diacono aliive personae sacerdotali caractere non insignate aut personarum communitati, sacerdotem constitat aliquem qui, potestatibus facultatibus parochi instructus curam pastoraalem moderetur", requires that this exceptional provision be used only with strict adherence to conditions contained in it. These are:

- a) ob sacerdotum penuriam and not for reasons of convenience or ambiguous "advancement of the laity", etc.;
- b) this is participatio in exercitio curae pastoralis and not directing, coordinating, moderating or governing the Parish; these competencies, according to the canon, are the competencies of a priest alone.

Because these are exceptional cases, before employing them, other possibilities should be availed of, such as using of the services of retired priests still capable of such service, or entrusting several parishes to one priest or to a coetus sacerdotum.(75)

In any event, the preference which this canon gives to deacons cannot be overlooked.

You may exercise the following faculties as long as your remain in the office of pastoral leadership of a parish according to can 517§2.

Deputation of catechists

4.1 You may depute catechists, truly worthy and prepared, to celebrate the minor exorcism of the catechumenate and the blessings catechumens when a priest or deacon cannot be present (OCIA 44, 48, 109,119; RCIA 12, 16, 91, 97).

Abbreviated catechumenate in exceptional circumstances

4.2 You have the faculty to permit the simple rite for the initiation of an adult in the exceptional circumstances envisioned by the law, namely sickness, old age, change of residence, long absence for travel, or depth of Christian conversion and a degree of religious maturity in the catechumen. In all other cases, the permission of the diocesan bishop is necessary to use the abbreviated rite (can 851, OICA 240, 270, RCIA 331-332).

Dispensation from scrutinies

4.3 You may dispense from one scrutiny for a serious reason or in extraordinary circumstances, even from two. The extraordinary circumstances from granting the dispensation from two scrutinies are those mentioned in 4.2 above (OICA 52, 66, §3; RCIA 20, 34 §3).

Sunday celebrations in the absence of a priest

4.4 When no priest is available to celebrate Mass, and neither you nor another deacon is available for the Sunday celebration of the Word or Liturgy of the Hours, you may appoint a suitably instructed lay minister, approved by the bishop for this function, to take your place, using the appropriate rite (DSCAP 24, EDM art 7).

Designation of a communion minister

4.5 You may appoint a qualified person to distribute Holy Communion for single occasions when you are presiding at a communion service and there are too many communicants and insufficient ordinary and extraordinary ministers of communion, or when bringing viaticum to a dying person is necessary and no ordinary or extraordinary minister of communion is available (can 230 §3; EDM art 8 §1).

Lay minister of exposition

4.6 In the absence of a priest, deacon, instituted acolyte or extraordinary ministry of communion, you may, in individual instances, appoint a lay person to expose the Eucharist publically for the adoration of the faithful and to afterwards repose it (HCWE 91-92).

Permissions to marry

4.7 You may permit: (1) the marriage of transients (*vagi*), provided the diocesan marriage preparation is observed to the extent possible, and baptismal certificates are produced and freedom to marry is certain; (2) the marriage of a person who is bound by natural obligations toward another party or children arising from a previous union, provided these obligations are being fulfilled; and (3) the marriage of a Catholic with another Catholic who has notoriously rejected the faith, provided the norms of can 1125 have been observed (can 1071 §1 nn.1,3,4; §2).

Permission to marry in another Catholic Church

4.8 You may permit a parishioner to be married in another Catholic church or oratory (can 1118 §1). The permission must be granted in writing and a copy retained in the parish archives.

Delegation of faculty to a lay minister

4.9 In a case of necessity when you are unable to assist at a marriage, if no other cleric is available, you may grant a special delegation to a lay substitute, previously approved by the diocesan bishop, or to a lay person from another parish who has been appointed by the diocesan bishop for this ministry. (Only the diocesan bishop can appoint a lay person to this ministry and no other lay person can substitute.)

The grant of the faculty must be made in writing on parish note paper or with a parish stamp; I grant you N. the faculty to assist at the marriage of N. and N. on [date and time] at [name of parish]. You must sign and date the document and file a copy with the marriage papers.

Blessings

4.10 You may permit competent lay ministers and catechists to celebrate blessings from the Book of Blessings that are not reserved to priests and deacons, provided sufficient clergy or instituted lectors or acolytes are unavailable (DB/BB 18d).

Funeral rites for unbaptised children

4.11 You may permit a church funeral rites for children who died before baptism, provided their parents had intended to have them baptised (can 1183 §2).

Funeral of a Baptised member of another church or ecclesial community

4.12 You may celebrate the church's funeral rites for a validly baptised member of another Church or ecclesial community, provided that this is not contrary to the wishes of the deceased person and provided the minister of the deceased person is unavailable (can 1183 §3; DAPNE 120).

Feast days and days of penance

4.13 In individual cases and for a just cause, you may dispense parishioners anywhere they are and others who are in the parish territory from the obligations to attend Mass and abstain from work on Sundays and holy days of obligation, or you may commute the obligation to another pious work. Under the same conditions you may dispense from or commute the obligations of fast and abstinence on a day of penance (can 1245).

Vows and oaths

4.14 You may dispense from private vows, provided the dispensation does not injure the acquired rights of others. You may dispense from promissory oaths, unless dispensation from an oath would tend to harm one or other persons who refuse to remit its obligations. You may commute the obligations of a private vow or oath to a lesser good. This faculty may be used on behalf of parishioners wherever they are staying and within the boundaries of the parish on behalf of visitors (can 1196 §1; 1203).

5. Mandates granted by a priest supervisor to a deacon appointed according to can. 517 §2.

A priest supervisor who has the cura animarum of the parish may grant the following to assist you to discharge your duties of parish leadership.

Legal representation of the parish

5.1 You may at in the name of the priest supervisor act as the legal representative of the parish in accord with the pertinent laws of the Church and the State and within in the limits of pastoral leader of the parish (can 532 and Book V of CIC especially can 1281-1288).

Pastoral and finance councils

5.2 In the absence of the priest supervisor, you may preside at meetings of the parish pastoral council and finance council (can 536; 537).

Decisions

5.3 You may make decisions necessary for the fulfilment of the duties enumerated in your duty statement as necessary for the pastoral leadership of the parish and for implementing a pastoral plan or project. The more important decisions, as determined by the priest supervisor, and all decisions adversely affecting the rights or persons require the prior consent of the priest supervisor, but if he cannot be reached, you can decide the matter, which decision must be approved by him or the local ordinary.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB	Book of blessings
CIC	Codex iurus canonici
DAPNE	Directory for the applications application of the norms for ecumenism
DSCAP	Director for Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest.
EDM	Ecclesia de mysterio
GFM	Archdiocese of Brisbane Guide for Marriage Celebrants
GILH	General instruction on the liturgy of the hours
GIRM	General instruction on the Roman Missal
HCWE	Holy communion and worship of Eucharist outside of Mass
OCM	Ordo celebrandi matrimonium
OUI	Ordo unctionis infirmorum 1972
OICA	Ordo initiationis christianae adultorum
PCS	Pastoral Care of the Sick
RP	Rite of penance 1973
RBC	Rite of baptism for children
RCIA	Rite of Christian initiation of adults
SDO	Sacrum diaconatus ordinem
SPCU	Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian unity

