

Weddings with Visiting Priests from Beyond the Diocese of Green Bay and/or State of Wisconsin

If a couple would like to have their wedding at the parish church, it must be understood that the pastor of the parish is, by Canon Law (i.e., the Law of the Church), responsible for the wedding and the marriage preparation. And so, whichever priest a couple desires to have assist at their wedding, if that priest is not the pastor, he must be in touch with the pastor of the parish where the wedding will take place. It's a simple matter of jurisdiction: the pastor has ultimate oversight and responsibility for all sacramental celebrations within the parish over which he is given jurisdiction.

Such communications include:

1- **Sending the pastor of the parish the results of the marriage preparation;** that is, a sealed letter stating that the marriage preparation has been completed, by whom, and the details of what the preparation consisted of. This is because the marriage preparation requirements set by the Diocese of Green Bay are still in play (this is especially important to remember if the visiting priest is from outside the Diocese of Green Bay and, therefore, may not know our Diocese's requirements). (cf Canon 1070) Ideally, the priest would be in touch with the pastor before the marriage preparation begins as to avoid misunderstanding and delay.

2- The visiting priest needs to request a **"letter of good standing"** be sent from his Arch/Diocese **to the Chancery Office** of the Diocese of Green Bay. A copy of this letter also needs to be sent **to the pastor of the parish** where the wedding will take place. (cf the particular law (i.e., "Diocesan Policy") of the Diocese of Green Bay) This letter does not need to be sent if the priest is already a priest for the Diocese of Green Bay.

In the past, the State of Wisconsin required non-Wisconsin clergy to register in order to officiate at a wedding inside the State. This law was changed. Out-of-state clergy are no longer required to register with the State of Wisconsin in order to officiate at a wedding.

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