



## **FACULTIES OF PASTORS**

1.
  - a. **To baptize an adult or admit a baptized adult into full communion with the Catholic church. (The law itself grants the additional faculty to confirm the candidate during these rites.)**
  - b. **To admit into full communion and to confirm an adult who has been baptized in the Latin Catholic church but was brought up in or adhered to a non-Catholic religion.**
  - c. **To administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to a baptized adult Latin Catholic who has completed the various stages of the catechumenate according to the rite of the catechumenate approved by the U.S. Bishops.**
  - d. **To mandate another priest to perform these rites in individual cases. (Any priest so delegated has the faculty by the law itself to confirm the candidate during the rites of admission.)**

The law states that “the baptism of adults, at least those who have completed their fourteenth year, is to be referred to the bishop, so that he himself may confer it if he judges this appropriate”. Furthermore, “the provisions of the canons on adult baptism apply to all those who, being no longer infants, have reached the age of reason; on the completion of the seventh year, the minor is presumed to have the use of reason” (Canon 863, 852§1, 97§2). An adult is to be admitted to the catechumenate. This faculty permits pastors to baptize or receive those individuals above the age of seven.

Converts from Orthodox churches may not be received without permission from the Holy See. The Pastoral Office must be contacted in each instance.

A pastor may mandate another priest (not a deacon) to baptize and confirm an adult or receive and confirm a convert. In order for the confirmation to be valid, the mandate must be expressly given by the pastor for the specific celebration. (Canon 883§2)

The fact of baptism or reception and the fact of confirmation which was conferred as part of the rite must be recorded in the baptismal register of the parish.



## CANONICAL FACULTIES

### Faculties of Pastors

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

---

The confirmation of a lapsed Catholic who has returned to the full practice of the faith is to be duly recorded in the parish confirmation register and notification is to be sent to the place of baptism in accordance with Canon 895 and 535§2.

2. **To permit the marriage of two baptized persons, one of whom was baptized in the Catholic church or received into it after baptism and has not left it by a formal act, and the other of whom is a member of a church or ecclesial community which is not in full communion with the Catholic church.**

In the case of mixed religion, the permission is not to be granted unless the conditions of Canon 1125 are fulfilled. These conditions are:

- The Catholic promises to do all in her/his power to practice the faith and raise the children in the faith;
- The other party is informed of this promise;
- Both parties are instructed in the essential ends and properties of marriage, which are not to be excluded by either party.

Notification of the permission for a case of mixed religion and the promise signed by the Catholic party is to be sent to the Pastoral Office with the Summary Form after the marriage has been witnessed.

3. **To dispense from the impediment of *disparity of cult* for a just and reasonable cause in the case of a marriage between a baptized Catholic and a person who has never been baptized.**

- The same conditions must be fulfilled as for granting permission for a mixed religion.
- A list of just and reasonable causes is given on the Dispensation Form.

Notification of the dispensation from *Disparity of Cult* and the promise by the Catholic party is to be sent to the Pastoral Office with the Summary Form after the marriage has been witnessed.

4. **To dispense for a just reason from the obligation of observing a holy day or a day of penance, or commute the obligation into some other pious works (Canon 1245)/**

The code states:



## CANONICAL FACULTIES

### Faculties of Pastors

Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

---

With due regard for the rights of diocesan bishops which is mentioned in Canon 87, and in accord with the prescriptions of the diocesan bishop, the pastor in individual cases can dispense from the obligation to observe a feast day or day of penance; or he can commute it to other pious works.

5. **To allow a Catholic lay person to preach to the faithful during a liturgical service at some time apart from the homily.**

The code states:

The laity may be allowed to preach in a church or oratory if in certain circumstances it is necessary, or in particular cases it would be advantageous, according to the provisions of the Episcopal Conference and without prejudice to Canon 767§ 1. (Canon 766)

Lay people may be permitted on special occasions to address the faithful during a liturgical celebration or assembly. This address is to be given, if possible, at a place apart from the ambo where the Scriptures are proclaimed and the homily given. Moreover, it is normally to be scheduled at a time other than during the Liturgy of the Word, usually after the Prayer After Communion. The homily, given by the sacred minister, should not be omitted.

6. **To permit a non-Catholic to act as a scripture reader and to offer prayers during either a wedding or other appropriate service, provided that there is no celebration of the Eucharist.**

Universal law states that bishops are to promote unity and to issue practical norms which are in accord with the provisions laid down by the supreme authority of the Church. (Canon 755§2)

A separated brother or sister is not to act as a scripture reader or offer prayers during the celebration of the Eucharist. At other services, even liturgical ones, it is allowable to exercise some functions with the previous permission of the local Ordinary and the consent of the authorities concerned. Through this faculty, this permission is granted.

It is not permissible for a member of a separated community (except members of the Orthodox churches) to act as godparent in the liturgical and canonical sense at baptism and confirmation. (*Ad Totam Ecclesiam*, nn. 56, 57)



**CANONICAL FACULTIES**  
**Faculties of Pastors**  
Diocese of Great Falls-Billings

---

A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may not be admitted except as a witness to baptism and together with a Catholic sponsor. (Canon 874§2) The notation of "witness" must be entered as such into the Baptismal register.