

DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE
MASS OFFERING POLICY

Effective July 1, 1993

On July 1, 1993, the new annual Salary Schedule for priests was implemented. Incorporated within the annual compensation was \$3,000 in lieu of Mass offerings. All Mass offerings, therefore, are to be put into the general fund of the parish which pays the priest's salary.

There need not be a separate bank account for Mass offering. If you choose not to have a separate bank account, Mass offerings received would be deposited directly in the general bank account of the parish. There still would be a need for a special book.

Canon 958-1: The pastor and rector of a church or other pious place where Mass offerings are usually received are to have a special book in which they list accurately the number of Masses to be celebrated, the intention, the stipend given, and their celebration.

If you choose to have a separate bank account for Mass offerings, then there should be some procedure to transfer funds from the Mass account to the parish general account, e.g., a monthly check.

Priests in special work who receive their full salary from the diocese or from an institution are to pay the diocese any Mass offerings they receive.

The overabundance of Masses accumulated in parishes are governed by these Canons:

Canon 953: It is not lawful for anyone to accept more stipends for Masses to be applied by himself than he can satisfy within a year.

Canon 957: Each and every administration of pious causes or those obliged in any way to see to the celebration of Masses, whether clergy or laity, are to give to their ordinaries, in a manner to be determined by the latter, Mass obligations which have not been satisfied within a year.

Therefore, Masses that have not been satisfied after one year, be they \$5.00 or \$10.00 Masses, are to be sent to the Pastoral Office. Any priest, whether in a parish or special diocesan work within the Diocese of Marquette, or a retired priest of the Diocese of Marquette, in need of Mass offerings may request them from the Chancellor.

Pastors are to be reminded of their obligation to offer the Missa pro populo every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.

Canon 534-1: After he has taken possession of his parish, the pastor is obliged to apply Mass for the people entrusted to him each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation within the diocese; if he is legitimately prevented from this celebration, he is to apply Mass on these same days through another priest or he himself is to apply it on other days.

By means of this general decree, I hereby establish the above policy as particular law within the ecclesiastical region of the Diocese of Marquette and as binding upon the faithful of the same Diocese of Marquette, according to the norms of the Code of Canon Law (1983).

May 22, 2000
Date

Most Reverend James H. Garland
Bishop of Marquette

Reverend Alex K. Sample
Ecclesiastical Notary