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NOTICE

TO: Pastors, Administrators and Parish Staff

November 20, 2012


Re: Policy No. 26 – 2nd Revision

Please find attached a second revision of the revised Mass Offerings Policy which comes into effect January 1, 2013 and can be found on the Archdiocesan website. The **one change** that was made from the first revision of March 2012 involves section J concerning wills. One of the principles of the Code of Canon Law entails respecting the wishes of donors, especially where the bequeathing of money in a will is concerned (see canons 950 and 1300). Our current policy states that no will shall bind for more than thirty (30) Masses, with the rest of the monies split between the parish and the Priests Compensation Fund. Since canon 950 can be considered to be constitutive law, a particular law cannot override the universal law. Thus, the following was proposed to and accepted by the Presbyteral Council at the October 16th meeting as a revision to our current policy:

Wills: *In the case of a sum of money left in a will for Masses to be celebrated without any indication of the number of Masses, the norms indicated in CIC, can. 950 shall apply, namely, the number is to be computed on the basis of the offering established in the Archdiocese (currently \$15 for an announced Mass or \$10 for an unannounced Mass). If the number of Masses is indicated and the donation accepted, then that number of Masses must be celebrated. Before accepting an amount of money greater than the equivalent of thirty (30) Masses, the Chancellor is to be consulted.*

Upon consultation, I can already assure you that I will advise the *status quo* - for example if \$1000.00 is left in a will for the celebration of announced Masses, it will be suggested to the Executor that \$450.00 be designated for Masses (\$15.00 per Mass) and the rest of the amount be split as per the former policy. I will be more than willing to assist the parish priest in speaking with the Executor of the will, if need be. Should they insist on having the entire amount earmarked for Masses, their wishes must be respected. The Masses may be celebrated at the parish itself, or if the amount is exorbitant and the Executor is favourable to the idea, the excess could be sent to the Chancery for our retired priests or sent to the missions or given to other parishes in need of intentions.

In Christ our Lord,


Fr. Christian Riesbeck, CC, E.V.
Chancellor

