

NOTICE

TO: Pastors, Administrators, Associate Pastors, Deacons and Parish Staff

June 24, 2013

Re: Policy No. 38 - Revision

Please find attached the revised Policy no. 38 on Offerings for Weddings and Funerals which comes into effect in the Archdiocese of Ottawa on July 1, 2013.

In relation to marriages, as an *addendum*, please be advised that ideally, a wedding will take place in the proper parish of either party but increasingly we are seeing that this does not always happen.

A. Someone belongs to the parish if:

1. They live in the parish boundaries
- OR
2. (by custom) they have registered in the parish

If neither party belongs to the parish where the wedding will take place then:

The couple should obtain a letter of permission from the proper (Catholic) parish of one of the parties.

B. Marriage Interview and Paperwork Preparation:

There are two options:

1. The pastor at the parish where the wedding takes place will do all the paperwork (i.e. pre-marriage interview, arranging dispensations, marriage preparation course, etc).

OR

2. The pastor of the (Catholic) parish where one of the parties resides will do the paperwork and forward the entire file to the parish where the wedding will take place.

Please note: in such a case, it is acceptable for the parish to charge a reasonable fee to the couple for this administrative work.

C. Marriages Where The Couple Live Outside the Archdiocese of Ottawa:

When a couple from outside the Archdiocese of Ottawa approaches the pastor of a parish of our archdiocese for the wedding to take place there, the preparation must take place in the proper parish of their own diocese. That parish will then send the documents to its Chancery for the testimonial letters.

The file will then be sent to our Chancery for the *nihil obstat* and forwarded to the local parish where the wedding is to take place at the couple's request.

Note about "validations":

A so-called "validation" or "convalidation" does not, in fact, bless an existing civil union. Where at least one Catholic party is involved, the Church does not recognize the previous civil union as a valid marriage. In effect, the "validation" is the Catholic marriage ceremony involving the couple, the Church's minister and two witnesses and where the couple give their true consent. Only then does the marriage exist.

In such a situation, the wedding celebration is often scaled down somewhat (with or without Mass). This is the reason why a lower amount is indicated. It is always possible to reduce or even waive the amount.

However, if the celebration resembles a regular, more elaborate wedding celebration, then it is acceptable to ask for the full amount indicated in 3.a. unless in your pastoral judgment a lower amount is appropriate.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Chancery if you require further clarification.



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

