



429 East Grandview Boulevard
Post Office Box 10397
Erie, Pennsylvania 16514-0397
Phone 814-824-1135
FAX 814-824-1124

NOTICE

Requirement of a Letter of Good Standing, i.e., a *Celebret*

Throughout the United States there are occasional problems in which some clerics disciplined under the *Essential Norms for the Protection of Children and Young People* have been known to travel to other dioceses and perform public ministry contrary to the directives of their own diocesan bishops. There are other cases of those presenting themselves as clerics who in fact are not. This has the potential to cause renewed harm, perpetuate scandal, and erode the credibility of the Church. In order to protect the people entrusted to our care, it is essential that the Bishop be fully aware of all extern clerics functioning, even for a short period of time, within the diocese.

Bishop Trautman has therefore amended and reinstated his notice of September 24, 2008:

Pastors, rectors, chaplains, headmasters, principals, directors of retreat houses, etc. are not to admit to the presbyteral or diaconal celebration of the sacraments or preaching any cleric from outside of the diocese of Erie until that cleric first presents to the said pastor, rector, chaplain, etc. a testimonial letter of good standing, i.e., a *celebret*, issued from his own diocese or religious order within the previous six months. A copy of this letter of good standing, along with a brief letter outlining the purpose and dates of the cleric's service, is to be mailed or faxed to the Erie Chancery either before or soon after the cleric's visit.

Any cleric functioning in the Diocese of Erie on behalf of the Erie Diocesan Missionary Cooperative will already have letters of good standing received by the Erie Office of Foreign Missions and the Chancery. Any other outside cleric representing any other ecclesiastical organization must present a letter of good standing to the pastor, etc., as described above.

The National Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People requires all U.S. dioceses to keep files of these documents and present them for inspection at the annual audit. Thus this matter is of great importance.

This policy applies to weddings, funerals, Sunday or weekday Masses, parish missions, parish retreats, school and religious education retreats, confessions, baptisms, concelebrations, etc.

This expectation is already widespread throughout the United States. Consequently, clergy from the Diocese of Erie who plan to travel and who wish to join in the presbyteral or diaconal celebration of the sacraments outside of the Diocese should contact the Chancery for a testimonial letter of good standing, i.e., a *celebret* (in English for use in the United States, or in Latin for use outside of the United States).

If there are any questions, please contact the Chancery at 814-824-1135 or 800-374-3723 or chancery@eriercd.org. In the meantime, please be assured of my continued prayers.

By order of the Most Reverend Bishop
April 4, 2011

Sincerely,
Rev. Christopher J. Singer, J.C.L.
Chancellor

Original with signature is on file in the Chancery.