

# DIOCESE OF DALLAS

## Celebration of Mass – Sacred Space

## **POLICY ON LOCATIONS FOR CELEBRATION OF MASS**

Celebration of Mass in a non-Catholic Church setting:

In accord with c. 932, the Eucharistic celebration is to be carried out in a sacred place unless in a particular case necessity requires otherwise; in such a case, the celebration must be done in a decent place.

The Diocese of Dallas expects that this canon will be observed and that no Mass will be celebrated in a non-sacred place unless permission is given by the Bishop for a single occasion or unless permission is given by the Bishop to an individual priest for necessity. For example, Masses celebrated in private homes, hotels, country clubs and Knights of Columbus halls generally are not permitted. Exceptions could be made in certain circumstances warranting such; that is, a Mass in the home of a Catholic dying of cancer or a Mass at a

convention hotel when a large number of people are gathered for a Catholic related convention. Likewise, permission for a Mass to be celebrated in another Christian church (c.933) may be given by the Bishop under certain circumstances.

Therefore, in regard to cc. 932 and 933, please contact in writing at least six weeks in advance the Chancellor or Vicar General before considering the possibility of celebrating any Mass in a non-Catholic Church setting.

In regard to a funeral Mass in particular, this Mass is to be celebrated in the Parish Church of the Deceased unless circumstances, deemed appropriate by the Pastor, warrant celebration in a location such as the Mausoleum Chapel in a Catholic cemetery. However, a funeral Mass is not to be celebrated in a funeral home.

If you have been given permission in the past either orally or in writing to celebrate Masses in a non-Catholic Church setting and would like a possible re-issue of this permission, please contact the Chancellor or Vicar General.

