

# DIOCESE OF DALLAS

## Visiting Priests- Functioning in a Parish

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The following guidelines represent the current policy of the Diocese of Dallas regarding a parish's utilization of priests, deacons or laity from outside the Diocese.

- A priest or deacon functioning for a **single event** (baptism, wedding, funeral, etc.) at a parish should provide a letter dated within six weeks of the event from his bishop/superior stating that he is a priest/deacon in good standing and *giving assurance that he is aware of no prior action or accusation which would be detrimental to pastoral ministry to the Christian faithful of all ages.*
- A priest, deacon or lay person who will conduct a **mission, retreat** or similar event where children or youth are present must provide proof that he has a cleared criminal background check, as well as a letter of endorsement from his bishop/superior. In addition the parish should complete the safe environment checklist for events sponsored by outside groups at a parish. (See Policy on Paying Foreign Retreat/Mission Leaders)
- Religious Priest – If a priest who is a member of a religious institute, but not domiciled in the Dallas Diocese, comes periodically to assist a confrere (a priest of the same religious institute), he must have an affidavit from his superior on file at the Pastoral Center and a religious worker visa, legal permanent residency card, or proof of citizenship.