

Norms for outside speakers invited to teach /preach in the Diocese of Corpus Christi

Any priest, deacon, religious (brother/sister), or lay person who lives outside the Diocese of Corpus Christi and either requests or is invited to come into the diocese to teach/preach on faith, morals, and/or liturgy within a parish, Catholic school, religious house, or diocesan event, must receive appropriate permission according to the following principles (Cf. CIC 756 – 772; Memorandum from the Bishop, 19, Nov. 1998):

1. Any **cleric** who is invited into the diocese, must present proof of possessing the faculties of his own diocese of incardination and forward to the Chancellor's Office a diocesan approved *testimony of suitability for ministry* from his diocese. (Cf. CIC 386.1; 812; 823). Please contact the Chancellor to facilitate the *testimony*.
2. In cases of **clergy belonging to a religious order or institute of consecrated life** seeking permission to teach/preach in the diocese must present proof of faculties/permission of his major or local superior. The invited cleric must also forward to the Chancellor's Office a diocesan approved *testimony of suitability for ministry* from his major/local superior.
3. Likewise, a **religious brother/sister**, must present proof of permission from his/her major or local superior along with a *testimony of suitability for ministry* forwarded to the Chancellor's office prior to the intended event.
4. All **lay faithful** invited to teach in the Diocese of Corpus Christi are to submit to the Chancellor's Office a letter of endorsement from his/her bishop and/or pastor testifying to their fidelity to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. In addition, they are to submit a verification of training and/or formation in Theology and certification in 'safe environment' training. Any training/certification, in this regard, from outside the Diocese of Corpus Christi is subject to the Chancellor's approval.
5. In accord with the requirements prescribed in #4, **Pastors may grant permission** to speakers from outside the diocese to teach/preach at parochial functions under his jurisdiction. The names of such speakers, however, must be submitted to the chancellor's office in order to keep the bishop's office informed of visiting speakers. Additionally, the bishop reserves the right to withdraw the general permission in particular cases.
6. Any request for **diocesan publication/advertisement** (diocesan website, newspaper, KLUX) for an event with an invited speaker from outside the Diocese of Corpus Christi, permission from the Chancellor's office must be obtained prior to the invitation being extended to the individual. Once permission is granted, diocesan media may be utilized as a means of publication/invitation.
7. In addition to the above norms, **Institutions of Consecrated Life within the Diocese of Corpus Christi inviting speakers to teach/preach** within the Diocese of Corpus Christi, are to inform the Chancellor's Office, and in this manner obtain the Bishop's consent.
8. In addition to the above norms, if a person from outside the diocese (clergy, religious or lay) is invited to address a **diocesan event, assembly or convention**, the Chancellor's Office must be consulted, and in this manner obtain the Bishop's consent. This permission must be obtained BEFORE extending the invitation.

**** N. B. – ALL permissions/approvals/letters of endorsement MUST be dated within a year of the intended event(s).**