



Speaker Policy for the Diocese of Madison

RATIONALE

- ✘ Canon 386 §2 requires the Diocesan Bishop to defend the integrity and unity of the faith.
- ✘ Speaker approval avoids difficult situation of having to dis-invite someone and public scandal.

BASIC IDEA

- ✘ Speakers who are being considered to give a presentation on faith and morals must be approved by the Diocesan Bishop *before* an invitation is extended.
- ✘ Catholic Parishes, Catholic Schools and Catholic Organizations cannot promote or sponsor a speaker unless he or she is approved (even if the presentation is not being given on church property).

TO WHICH SPEAKERS THE POLICY APPLIES

- ✘ Any speaker under consideration to give a presentation on matters of faith and morals who do not fall in the exempt category below.

SPEAKERS WHO DO NOT NEED APPROVAL

(i.e. those who are exempt) INCLUDE :

- ✘ Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church, in virtue of their office
- ✘ Bishops in communion with the Holy See
- ✘ Those who hold appointed or staff positions in the Diocese of Madison:
 - Priests/Deacons in the Diocese of Madison who are in good standing
 - Staff of Diocesan Parishes, Schools and Institutions, including:
 - Parish Staff Members
 - Catechists
 - Diocesan Catholic School Teachers/Administrators

(All persons listed above are referred to, as defined by the Holy See, Diocese of Madison and the Wisconsin Catholic Conference Standards for Educators in Catholic Parishes and Schools' "Terms Defined", 2008 – [linked here](#).)

PROCEDURE

- ✘ Before a firm invitation is extended to the speaker (preliminary contacts, checking availability, etc., are OK), a request must be submitted to the Office of the Bishop from the inviting party.
- ✘ Must include:
 1. A completed **Cover Letter Request Form** from the inviting party, which includes the speaker's name and topic(s). It should attest to the speaker's fidelity to the Magisterium, and the conformity of the topic to the pastoral direction of the Diocese.
 2. A **curriculum vitae** for the speaker.
 3. In the case of a lay person:
 - A **letter of support** from the speaker's pastor establishing that he is a Catholic in good standing.

In the case of a cleric/religious:

- A *letter of support* from the speaker's superior/ordinary attesting that the speaker is a cleric/religious in good standing.
- 4. A cleric must also have a *celebret*, indicating he has permission to celebrate the sacraments outside of his diocese.
- 5. College or university professors should provide a *mandatum* from their bishop, if they have one. If not, please indicate that they do not have one.
- 6. If the speaker is not a Catholic, the *curriculum vitae* should be accompanied by *written assurance* that the speaker's presentation will not conflict with Catholic teaching in any way.
- 7. If the proposed speaker will address minors, proof that they have adequate safe environment training, as deemed by the Diocesan Safe Environment Officers and the USCCB Office of Child and Youth Protection Office.

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 15, 2010

- ✘ Anyone already booked before that date does not need to go through the process (however, that person will have to go through the process if and when they are considered in the future)

Summary Prepared by:
The Chancery Office
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