

Notice from the Chancellor's Department *Papal Blessings*

The Holy See recently changed its requirements for the issuance of Papal Blessings. While it was possible in the past to receive a papal blessing for a wide variety of occasions, the change in regulations (meant to ensure that what is meant to be a privilege does not become a commercial enterprise) has resulted in a reduction of the types of blessing that can be requested.

The following information is provided for those who wish to request a papal blessing. The appearance of the certificates has not changed, nor has the cost (approximately \$37). However, the change in regulations has altered the form in which the blessing will be stated. Please allow approximately three months for receipt of the blessing.

The only occasions for which a papal blessing will be granted are as follows.

Weddings: the full name of the bride, with her maiden name, and the full name of the groom, along with the name of the Catholic church, city and state, where the ceremony will take place and the date of wedding must be provided;

Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, and Ordinations/First Mass: the full name of the recipient of the sacrament, the name of the church, city and state, and the date of the reception of the sacrament must be provided;

Wedding anniversaries: the couple's first names, e.g., John and Joan Doe, must be provided; a blessing will not be issued in the name of a "Mr. and Mrs.," e.g., "Mr. and Mrs. John Doe." In addition, the anniversary must be of special significance, i.e. 25th, 50th, 60th, etc.

Religious Profession and Secular Consecration: the full name of the person taking vows, the order or society to which he or she is professed, and the date must be provided. It is also possible to request papal blessings for the anniversaries of religious professions, but it must be of special significance, i.e. 25th, 50th, 60th, etc.

Birthdays: (18th, 70th, 80th, 90th, 100th). The full name of the individual and the date must be provided.

A general blessing for a specific individual or family may also be requested.

When requesting a papal blessing, please note that a written recommendation of the parish priest of the person(s) to receive the blessing is required. This recommendation should attest to the person(s) good standing in the Catholic Church.

As in the past, papal blessings are reserved for baptized Catholics. non-Catholics, the deceased, animals, and inanimate objects will not be granted a blessing.

For more information, or to request a papal blessing, please contact the Chancellor's Department at 651-291-4480.