

A dispensation from priestly celibacy by Pope Francis
through the Congregation for the Clergy
issued in July of 2019

Translation by Matthew Cullinan Hoffman for [LifeSiteNews](http://LifeSiteNews.com)

CONGREGATION FOR THE CLERGY

(Dispensation from the obligations entailed in Ordination)

Prot. N. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], priest of the [REDACTED],
humbly requests dispensation from celibacy and from the obligations inherent in Sacred
Ordination.

The Holy Father FRANCIS

On the day of [REDACTED] of the month of July of the year 2019,

after having received the report of the Congregation for the Clergy, has given his assent to the
request, in accordance with the following dispositions:

1. The Rescript, which contains the granting of the dispensation and which must be
conveyed as soon as possible by the Ordinary of the solicitant, in conformity with the norm to
which is referred in point two,

- a) is effective from the moment in which the solicitant is notified;
- b) includes, inseparably, the dispensation from celibacy and, at the same time, the loss of
the clerical state. These two elements can never be separated, because according to current
practice they are part of a single procedure;
- c) if the solicitant is a religious, the decree also includes the dispensation from vows;
- d) furthermore, the said decree includes, insofar as it might be necessary, the remission of
censures.

2. The notification of the granting of the dispensation to the solicitant can be either
personally (by the Ordinary himself, by his delegate, or by an ecclesiastical notary), or by means of
certified mail. The Ordinary must send a copy properly signed by the solicitant, as a testimony of
having received the decree and of his acceptance of its norms.

3. The Ordinary of the solicitant will transmit the notification of the concession of the grant of the dispensation to the solicitant's parish, where it will have to be annotated in the baptismal registry.

4. With respect to the celebration of a canonical marriage, the norms established in the Code of Canon law for such matters (canons 1055-1140) respecting the sensibilities of the faithful of the area, will be applied.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: In point 5, only the text following "[Text cut off by scanner]" appears in the scanned copy of the rescript. The rest of point 5 is reconstructed from quotes from the document in the Religion Digital article that supplied the scanned copy. The top of the scanned copy was cut off, thus eliminating what appear to be 2-3 lines of text from point 5.

5. The ecclesiastical Authority will endeavor to facilitate the ability of the dispensed cleric to carry out services that are useful to the Christian community, placing his personal gifts and talents that he received from God at its service ... The dispensed cleric will be able to exercise those ecclesiastical offices that do not require sacred Order, with the permission of the competent Bishop. [Text cut off by scanner] ... Reconciliation in the case of the penitent who is in danger of death, in conformity with canons 976 and 986 par. 2, part 2.

6. It is desirable that the dispensed cleric be received by the ecclesial community in which he resides, to continue his journey, faithful to the obligations of his baptismal vocation. In the reception of the dispensed cleric in the ecclesial community "as a layman" ("tamquam laicus"), it will be appropriate for the competent Bishop to be attentive so that the functions or services that might be eventually entrusted to him do not cause confusion or scandal among the faithful.

7. In consideration of the specific circumstances, according to the prudent evaluation of the competent Bishop, the dispensed cleric will be able to exercise the function of director, or be placed in charge of, the teaching of theological subjects in the institutes of lower studies that depend on ecclesiastical authority.

8. In the Institutes of higher learning that are in some way dependent upon ecclesiastical Authority, the dispensed cleric cannot exercise a directive function. However, such prohibition can be remitted by the Congregation for the Clergy, in response to the petition of the competent Bishop and after having consulted the Congregation for Catholic Education, so that the dispensed cleric can carry out some functions in theological studies or in institutes that carry out the equivalent of academic formation, and also in other institutes of higher learning that are in any way dependent upon ecclesiastical authority.

9. In the Institutes of higher learning, whether or not they are dependent on ecclesiastical Authority, the dispensed cleric will not be able to teach properly theological subjects, or those intimately connected with theology. However, this prohibition can be removed by the Congregation for the Clergy, at the request of the competent Bishop and after having consulted with the Congregation for Catholic Education.

10. The dispensed cleric cannot carry out functions related to formation in Seminaries or in equivalent institutions.

11. At the appropriate moment a brief account regarding the notification of the Rescript and regarding perspectives on the dispensed cleric in the heart of the ecclesial community.

Given at the seat of the Congregation, on the [REDACTED] day of the month of July in the year 2019.