

Appendix A- Pertinent Canon References

CANON 515

1. A parish is a certain community of the Christian faithful stably constituted in a particular church, whose pastoral care is entrusted to a pastor (parochus) as its proper pastor (pastor) under the authority of the diocesan bishop.
2. It is only for the diocesan bishop to erect, suppress or alter parishes. He is not to erect, suppress or alter notably parishes, unless he has heard the presbyteral council.
3. A legitimately erected parish possesses juridic personality by the law itself.

CANON 519

The pastor (parochus) is the proper pastor (pastor) of the parish entrusted to him, exercising the pastoral care of the community committed to him under the authority of the diocesan bishop in whose ministry of Christ he has been called to share, so that for that same community he carries out the functions of teaching, sanctifying, & governing, also with the cooperation of other presbyters or deacons & with the assistance of lay members of the Christian faithful, according to the norm of law.

CANON 532

In all juridic affairs the pastor represents the parish according to the norm of law. He is to take care that the goods of the parish are administered according to the norm of cann. 1281-1288.

CANON 537

In each parish there is to be a finance council which is governed, in addition to universal law, by norms issued by the diocesan bishop and in which the Christian faithful, selected according to these same norms, are to assist the pastor in the administration of the goods of the parish, without prejudice to the prescript of can. 532.

CANON 1281

1. Without prejudice to the prescripts of the statutes, administrators invalidly place acts which exceed the limits and manner of ordinary administration unless they have first obtained a written faculty from the ordinary.
2. The statutes are to define the acts which exceed the limit and manner of ordinary administration; if the statutes are silent in this regard, however, the diocesan bishop is competent to determine such acts for the persons subject to him, after having heard the finance council.
3. Unless and to the extent that it is to its own advantage, a juridic person is not bound to answer for acts invalidly placed by its administrators. A juridic person itself, however, will answer for acts illegitimately but validly placed by its administrators, without prejudice to its right of action or recourse against the administrators who have damaged it.

CANON 1283

Before administrators begin their function:

1. They must take an oath before the ordinary or his delegate that they will administer well and faithfully;
2. They are to prepare and sign an accurate and clear inventory of immovable property, movable objects, whether precious or of a some cultural value, or other goods, with their description and appraisal; any inventory already done is to be reviewed;
3. One copy of this inventory is to be preserved in the archive of the administration and another in the archive of the curia; any change which the patrimony happens to undergo is to be noted in each copy.

CANON 1284

1. All administrators are bound to fulfill their function with the diligence of a good householder.
2. Consequently they must:
 - a. Exercise vigilance so that the goods entrusted to their care are in no way lost or damaged, taking out insurance policies for this purpose insofar as necessary;
 - b. Take care that the ownership of ecclesiastical goods is protected by civilly valid methods;

- c. Observe the prescripts of both canon and civil law or those imposed by a founder, a donor, or legitimate authority, and especially be on guard so that no damage comes to the Church from the non-observance of civil laws;
 - d. Collect the return of goods and the income accurately and on time, protect what is collected, and use them according to the intention of the founder or legitimate norms;
 - e. Pay at the stated time the interest due on a loan or mortgage and take care that the capital debt itself is repaid in a timely manner;
 - f. With the consent of the ordinary, invest the money which is left over after expenses and can be usefully set aside for the purposes of the juridic person;
 - g. Keep well organized books of receipts and expenditures;
 - h. Draw up a report of the administration at the end of each year;
 - i. Organize correctly and protect in a suitable and proper archive the documents and records on which the property rights of the Church or the institute are based, and deposit authentic copies of them in the archive of the curia when it can be done conveniently.
3. It is strongly recommended that administrators prepare budgets of incomes and expenditures each year; it is left to particular law, however, to require them and to determine more precisely the ways in which they are to be presented.

CANON 1285

Within the limits of ordinary administration only, administrators are permitted to make donations for purposes of piety or Christian charity from movable goods which do not belong to the stable patrimony.

CANON 1286

Administrators of goods: in the employment of workers are to observe meticulously also the civil laws concerning labor and social policy, according to the principles handed on by the Church; are to pay a just and decent wage to employees so that they are able to provide fittingly for their own needs and those of their dependents.

CANON 1287

1. Both clerical and lay administrators of any ecclesiastical goods whatever which have not been legitimately exempted from the power of governance of the diocesan bishop are bound by their office to present an annual report to the local ordinary who is to present it for examination by the finance council; any contrary custom is reprobated.
2. According to norms to be determined by particular law, administrators are to render an account to the faithful concerning the goods offered by the faithful to the Church.

CANON 1288

Administrators are neither to initiate nor to contest litigation in a civil forum in the name of a public juridic person unless they have obtained the written permission of their own ordinary.

CANON 1289

Even if not bound to administration by the title of an ecclesiastical office, administrators cannot relinquish their function on their own initiative; if the Church is harmed from an arbitrary withdrawal, moreover, they are bound to restitution.

CANON 1293

1. The alienation of goods whose value exceeds the defined minimum amount also requires the following: a just cause, such as urgent necessity, evident advantage, piety, charity, or some other grave pastoral reason; a written appraisal by experts of the asset to be alienated.
2. Other precautions prescribed by legitimate authority are also to be observed to avoid harm to the Church.

CANON 1294

1. An asset ordinarily must not be alienated for a price less than that indicated in the appraisal.
2. The money received from the alienation is either to be invested carefully for the advantage of the Church or to be expended prudently according to the purposes of the alienation.

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