



Vetting of Visiting Priests

Domestic Priests

[Short Stay \(Less than 1 week\)](#)

[Long Stay \(More than 1 week\)](#)

International Priests

[Short Stay \(Less than 1 week\)](#)

[Long Stay \(More than 1 week\)](#)

Introduction

In the Diocese of Orlando, no cleric will be allowed to concelebrate, celebrate, and or exercise his priestly ministry without receiving faculties from the Diocesan Ordinary, Bishop John Noonan. Any individual cleric who wishes to minister in the Diocese of Orlando, regardless of length of stay, assignment, or country of origin is asked to provide any request through his bishop or religious superior to Bishop John Noonan. A letter of faculties from Bishop John Noonan or his designee must be on file before a cleric will be allowed to celebrate Mass or exercise his priestly ministry in the Diocese of Orlando. This also applies to priests who are simply visiting but plan to stay on diocesan property, such as a rectory.

DOMESTIC

*for the visiting cleric from a Diocese or Religious Order
with **headquarters in the United States***

Domestic Short Stay –

1. A current letter of suitability from his Diocese and or Religious Order must be sent to:

Most Reverend John G. Noonan
Attn: Sr. Maria Teresa Acosta, SCTJM
Diocese of Orlando
50 East Robinson Street
Orlando, Florida 32801

2. Include a cover letter with request stating time of arrival and departure, place where cleric will be housed, and purpose for visit or ministerial duty.
3. Submit the request three (3) months in advance, to ensure proper vetting.

Domestic Long Stay – more than 1 week. In addition to the above, the following requirements must be met:

1. The cleric will be required to comply with our Safe Environment policy which includes fingerprinting, a background check and safe environment training through the Diocese of Orlando.
2. Any cleric arriving for ministry within the Diocese of Orlando must report to the bishop's office before beginning an assignment.

INTERNATIONAL

*for the visiting cleric from a Diocese or Religious Order
with **headquarters outside of the United States***

International Short Stay–

1. A current, original letter of suitability from his bishop or religious order superior must be sent to:

Most Reverend John G. Noonan
Attn: Sr. Maria Teresa Acosta, SCTJM
Diocese of Orlando
50 East Robinson Street
Orlando, Florida 32801

2. Include a cover letter with request stating time of arrival and departure, place where cleric will be housed, and purpose for visit or ministerial duty.
3. Submit the request three (3) months in advance, to ensure proper vetting.

International Long Stay – more than 1 week. In addition to the above, the following requirements must be met:

1. The cleric will be required to comply with our Safe Environment policy which includes fingerprinting, a background check and safe environment training through the Diocese of Orlando. Fingerprinting can be done in the cleric's country of origin. Contact Ida Valdez, ivaldez@orlandodiocese.org, for the correct process to begin.
2. The determination for a cleric with an R1 visa to be granted permission to receive faculties must be decided upon by his bishop/religious superior AND the bishop of the Diocese of Orlando. Pastors of Diocese of Orlando churches are not allowed to make this determination.
3. Any cleric arriving for ministry within the Diocese of Orlando must report to the bishop's office before beginning an assignment.
4. **Tourist Visas B2/B1:** The major concern with a priest visiting under a tourist visa is compensation. The wages and reimbursement must be paid by their religious organizations outside the U.S. Priests visiting under a tourist visa should not be used as a substitute for ordinary labor for hire. Therefore, a priest who presents a tourist visa may celebrate Mass publicly, so long as he is not 'filling in' for a priest who is on leave or vacation. They would not be able to hear Confessions to assist with the parish schedule. In addition, the visiting priest may not be compensated. This includes room and board. Visiting priests on tourist visas can only perform a very limited number of religious activities.