



EXPLANATORY NOTE

concerning the faculties to preach and hear confessions in the territory of the Diocese of Rome during the Jubilee 2025

Every Holy Year of the Catholic Church represents first and foremost a pastoral opportunity. Pilgrims who come to Rome during Jubilee 2025 must be guaranteed both the possibility of approaching the sacrament of reconciliation so that “no one be deprived of the opportunity to receive God’s forgiveness and consolation” (*Spes non confundit*, No. 23), and of being able to draw from the source of living and life-giving water that is the Word of God. To these pastoral needs, the Church responds through the service of priests: of those incardinated in the Diocese of Rome, of those who habitually carry out their pastoral service there, but also of those who will accompany the pilgrims. In order to settle any doubts about the faculties of preaching and hearing confessions in the Diocese of Rome during Jubilee 2025, it was deemed useful to summarize the relevant applicable regulations:

1. Universal law establishes that clerics enjoy the faculty to preach anywhere, to be exercised with the at least presumed consent of the rector of the church, unless in special circumstances it is otherwise provided (cf. cc. 764 *CIC* and 610 § 2-3 *CCEO*).
2. With regard to the sacrament of reconciliation, priests who enjoy the faculty of habitually hearing confessions either by virtue of office or by virtue of a concession from their Ordinary of the place of incardination or domicile, may exercise the same faculty everywhere, unless the Ordinary of the place, in a particular case, has forbidden it (cf. cc. 967 § 2 *CIC* and 722 § 4 *CCEO*).
3. Decree No. 120/00 of the Vicariate of Rome, dated 20 February 2000, regulates the manner in which the faculty of hearing confessions is exercised by priests who are in Rome for different reasons:
 - a) Diocesan and religious presbyters who have domicile or quasi-domicile in Rome and perform habitual ministry there, provided they are already endowed with the faculty by virtue of the concession of their local Ordinary, may perform such ministry in the Diocese of Rome, however, they must produce documentation attesting to their possession of said faculty and obtain, from the Vicariate of Rome, the document certifying that the Ordinary of Rome has verified their position;
 - b) Diocesan presbyters who reside in Rome for a period of time of three months or more, or at least with the intention of remaining there for at least this period, but who do not habitually minister in the Diocese, if they possess the faculty of habitually hearing confessions, may also exercise it in the Diocese of Rome. However, the Ordinary of Rome may determine that in particular cases they shall be subject to the discipline provided for those who have domicile or quasi-domicile in the Diocese of Rome;

- c) Diocesan and religious presbyters who occasionally minister in Rome for a very limited period of time (e.g., those who accompany pilgrims, or are otherwise passing through), have the faculty and exercise it to the extent that it has been recognized by concession of their Ordinary of the place of incardination or domicile.
 - d) The Parish Pastors or, in their absence, the priests who are their permanent collaborators, as well as the Rectors, are required to verify the position of the priests who exercise the ministry even occasionally at the churches and oratories entrusted to them, with regard to the exercise of these faculties of the Diocese of Rome, as already provided for in c. 903 CIC regarding the celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist. All presbyters mentioned in letters a) - c) of this note are obliged to attest it with a valid and recent document if so requested by the aforementioned office holders.
- 4) The Decree therefore interprets and applies the universal law, however, without depriving priests of their faculties, since those who possess them can also exercise them in Rome. However, those who intend to remain there permanently and exercise habitual ministry must regularize their position with the Vicariate of Rome-Ufficio Clero. Those, on the other hand, who lack the faculties for whatever reason (penal, disciplinary, pastoral), cannot exercise them even in the Diocese of Rome.

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