

POLICY No. 26

HONORARIUM FOR FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS

1. Term definitions

Funeral: the celebration of Christian burial, in a church or approved chapel, or prayers for a deceased person according to the appropriate funeral rite.

Wedding: the celebration of a marriage in a church with or without Mass according to the prescribed ritual.

2. Intent of the directive

To provide for uniform honoraria throughout the Diocese. It is to be noted that the suggested donations for weddings or funerals **are maximum amounts and may be reduced** so as to not unjustly burden the faithful.

3. Policy

- a. The suggested maximum donation for funerals and weddings is \$275.00 paid to the parish.

The parish pays \$75.00 to the celebrant (priest or deacon) for a service celebrated at the parish, cemetery or funeral home. This payment remains the same for any funeral or wedding occurring on the same day.

Note: this policy applies whether the funeral rite is celebrated in the funeral home or the parish church (Appendix IX).

Funerals held in funeral homes are the responsibility of the parish priest. If the pastor is unable to fulfill this commitment, he may appoint a replacement, if not, the policy for funerals and weddings applies.

Funerals of individuals who do not have affinity with a parish belong to the parish in the geographical area of the residence of the deceased (see Appendix XIV for the geographical boundaries of parishes within the diocese).

- b. Honoraria paid to organists, instrumentalists, cantors, choirs or any other service are in addition to the suggested donation/offering for funerals and weddings. Such honoraria are taxable to the recipient.
- c. If the family chooses to obtain the services of another member of the clergy.
1. The family is responsible for any remuneration over and above the suggested maximum donation.
 2. The parish priest must give his consent prior to inviting any visiting clergy to perform a service.

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- 3. If the visiting clergy is from another diocese or ecclesial jurisdiction, the chancellor must be consulted to provide the necessary faculties for the celebration.

- d. A memorial Mass celebrated in place of the funeral Mass with the body or cremated remains present is considered a funeral Mass and, as such, the honorarium and mass stipend for funerals applies.

- e. In the case of the validation of a marriage already celebrated, pastoral sensitivity will determine if an offering/honorarium applies.

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