



Diocese of Rockford

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Speaker Policy for the Diocese of Rockford

RATIONALE

- Canon 386 §2 requires the Diocesan Bishop to defend the integrity and unity of the faith.
- Speaker approval avoids a difficult situation of having to dis-invite someone.

BASIC IDEA

- Speakers who are being considered to give a presentation on faith and morals on Church property must be approved by the Diocesan Bishop's designee *before* an invitation is extended.
- Catholic parishes and schools cannot promote or sponsor a speaker unless he or she is approved.

SPEAKERS TO WHICH THIS POLICY APPLIES

- Any speaker under consideration to give a presentation on matters of faith and morals who do not fall in the exempt category below.

SPEAKERS WHO ARE EXEMPT (no need for approval)

- Cardinals and Bishops in communion with the Holy See.
- Those who hold appointed or paid staff positions in the Diocese of Rockford in good standing.
- Priests/Deacons of the Diocese of Rockford who are in good standing.
- Diocesan appointed Pastoral Associates in good standing.
- Diocesan School Administrators in good standing.
- Members of Religious Communities or other Catholic institutions officially in the Diocese of Rockford who are in good standing.

PROCEDURE

- Before a firm invitation is extended to the speaker, a request must be submitted to the Chancery Office from the inviting party. (preliminary contacts, checking speaker availability, etc., are OK)
- Items to include with the request:
 - 1) A completed **Speaker Request Form** from the inviting party, which includes speaker's name and topic (s). It should attest to the speaker's fidelity to the Magisterium, and the conformity of the topic to the pastoral direction of the Diocese.
 - 2) A **curriculum vitae** for the speaker.
 - 3) In the case of a lay person, a **Letter of Good Standing** from the speaker's pastor establishing that he/she is a Catholic in good standing.

- 4) In the case of a cleric/religious from outside of our Diocese, a **Letter of Good Standing** from the speaker's superior/ordinary attesting that the speaker is a cleric/religious in good standing.
- 5) College or university professors should provide a **mandatum** from their bishop, if they have one. If not, please indicate they do not have one.
- 6) If the speaker is not a Catholic, the curriculum vitae should be accompanied by **written assurance** that the speaker's presentation will not conflict with Catholic teaching in any way.

Summary Prepared by:
Diocese of Rockford
The Chancery Office
November 2010

**REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION
FOR A SPEAKER ON ANY RELIGIOUS TOPIC**

(please print or type)

Date of request: _____ **Event:** _____
Date(s) of event: _____ **Place of event:** _____

Name of Coordinator: _____ **Phone:** _____

E-mail: _____ **Parish/Agency:** _____

Address: _____ **City/Zip:** _____

(If event is taking place at a parish and request is not submitted by the Pastor, please include Pastor's approval of event)

Name of Speaker: _____

Topic(s): _____

Audience Type: _____

Summary of Topic: _____

Please attach Speaker's Curriculum Vitae or provide requested information in the space below.

Credentials/Background: _____

Please include all necessary documents, including letter of good standing and mail to:

Diocese of Rockford
Chancery Office, Speaker Application
PO Box 7044
Rockford, IL 61125