

November 21, 2016

Dear Brother Priests,

It has come to my attention that there is a confusion by some in receiving Mass stipends. I hope the explanation below helps.

MASS STIPENDS

Canon 951§1 states that only one Mass stipend per day is to be received by the priest. This holds true for any priest celebrating Masses, whether assigned in the Diocese of Rockford or visiting. That would mean

- ▶ If a priest says Mass at a parish and then goes to another parish, he should not accept one of the stipends for that day.
- ▶ If a priest celebrates two Masses a day at a parish, he should only receive one stipend.
- ▶ If a retired priest receives Mass stipends from the Chancery and celebrates Mass at a parish, he can save that day's Diocesan Mass intention for another day. Example - 30 intentions are received from the Chancery along with a \$300 check for the stipends. If a priest celebrates Mass at a parish, he would celebrate Mass by himself using one of the intentions from the Chancery on another day.
- ▶ There is no Mass stipend for a *Pro Populo* Mass. Therefore, the priest will not receive a stipend for this Mass. This also applies to a visiting priest celebrating the Mass at a parish.

If you have any questions, please contact my office.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend Monsignor Daniel J. Deutsch
Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Religious