

## DECREES OF PROMULGATION

### CANON 284

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On November 18, 1998, the Latin Rite *de iure* members of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops approved complementary legislation for canon 284 of the Code of Canon Law for the Latin Rite dioceses of the United States.

The action was granted *recognitio* by the Congregation for Bishops in accord with article 82 of the Apostolic Constitution *Pastor Bonus* and issued by Decree of the Congregation for Bishops signed by His Eminence Lucas Cardinal Moreira Neves, Prefect, and His Excellency Most Reverend Franciscus Monterisi, Secretary, and dated September 29, 1999.

*The National Conference of Catholic Bishops, in accord with the prescriptions of canon 284, hereby decrees that without prejudice to the provisions of canon 288, clerics are to dress in conformity with their sacred calling.*

*In liturgical rites, clerics shall wear the vesture prescribed in the proper liturgical books. Outside liturgical functions, a black suit and Roman collar are the usual attire for priests. The use of the cassock is at the discretion of the cleric.*

*In the case of religious clerics, the determinations of their proper institutes or societies are to be observed with regard to wearing the religious habit.*

As President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, I hereby decree that the effective date of this decree for all the Latin Rite dioceses in the United States will be December 1, 1999.

Given at the offices of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, DC, on November 1, 1999.

Reverend Joseph A. Fiorenza  
Bishop Of Galveston-Houston  
President, NCCB

Reverend Monsignor Dennis M. Schnurr  
General Secretary

### CANON 496

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On November 18, 1998, the Latin Rite *de iure* members of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops approved complementary legislation for canon 496 of the Code of Canon Law for the Latin Rite dioceses of the United States.

The action was granted *recognitio* by the Congregation for Bishops in accord with article 82 of the Apostolic Constitution *Pastor Bonus* and issued by Decree of the Congregation for Bishops signed by His Eminence Lucas Cardinal Moreira Neves, Prefect, and His Excellency Most Reverend Franciscus Monterisi, Secretary, and dated September 29, 1999.

*The National Conference of Catholic Bishops, in accord with the prescriptions of canon 496, hereby decrees that statutes of the presbyteral council are to include the provision that the council shall meet at least four times a year, in order that it may effectively fulfill its purpose of aiding the diocesan bishop in the governance of the diocese according to the norm of law (see c. 495§1). The statutes of the presbyteral council are to be developed in accord with the provisions of canons 497 through 501.*

As President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, I hereby decree that the effective date of this decree for all the Latin Rite dioceses in the United States will be December 1, 1999.

Given at the offices of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, DC, on November 1, 1999.

Reverend Joseph A. Fiorenza  
Bishop Of Galveston-Houston  
President, NCCB

Reverend Monsignor Dennis M. Schnurr  
General Secretary

#### **CANON 538**

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*When a pastor has completed his seventy-fifth year of age he is asked to submit his resignation from office to the diocesan bishop, who, after considering the circumstances of person and place, is to decide whether to accept or defer the resignation; the diocesan bishop, taking into account the norms determined by the conference of bishops, is to provide for the suitable support and housing of the resigned pastor.*

#### **Complementary Norm:**

In accord with the prescriptions of canon 538§3, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops authorizes diocesan bishops to develop diocesan policy for the retirement of priests in accord with the provisions of *Norms for Priests and Their Third Age*.

(See Appendix for 1987 *Norms for Priests and Their Third Age*).

Approved: General Meeting  
November 1987

Reviewed: Holy See (Congregation for Clergy)

Letter from Apostolic Pro-Nuncio  
(Prot. No 5465/87/4) January 19, 1988

Promulgated: *Norms for Priests and Their Third Age*  
February 23, 1988