



CHAPTER 2

Rights,
Responsibilities
and
Special Faculties
of
Vicars Forane
(Deans)

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IN GENERAL

1.

By **universal Church law**, “[i]n addition to the faculties legitimately given to him by particular law, the vicar forane [dean] has the duty and right:

- 1° of promoting and coordinating common pastoral activity in the vicariate [deanery];
- 2° of seeing to it that the clerics of his district lead a life in keeping with their state and perform their duties diligently;
- 3° of seeing to it that religious functions are celebrated according to the prescripts of the sacred liturgy, that the beauty and elegance of churches and sacred furnishings are maintained carefully, especially in the eucharistic celebration and custody of the Most Blessed Sacrament, that the parochial registers are inscribed correctly and protected appropriately, that ecclesiastical goods are administered carefully, and finally that the rectory is cared for with proper diligence.” (Can. 555, §1)

2.

By **universal Church law**, “[i]n the vicariate [deanery] entrusted to him, the vicar forane [dean]:

- 1° is to see to it that, according to the prescriptions of particular law and at the times stated, the clerics attend lectures, theological meetings, or conferences according to the norm of can. 279, §2;
- 2° is to take care that spiritual supports are available to the presbyters of his district, and likewise to be concerned especially for those who find themselves in more difficult circumstances or are beset by problems.” (Can. 555, §2)

3.

By **universal Church law**, “[t]he vicar forane [dean] is to take care that the pastors of his district whom he knows to be gravely ill do not lack spiritual and material aids and that the funeral rites of those who have died are celebrated worthily. He is also to make provision so that, on the occasion of illness or death, the registers, documents, sacred furnishings, and other things which belong to the Church are not lost or removed.” (Can. 555, §3)

4.

By **universal Church law**, “[a] vicar forane [dean] is obliged to visit the parishes of his district according to the determination made by the diocesan bishop.” (Can. 555, §4; *Syn IV*, p. 68, §69)

GRANTING OF DIOCESAN FACULTIES

5.

By **grant of the diocesan bishop**, the vicar forane (dean) has delegated authority to grant to an

individual deacon or priest the faculties of the Diocese of La Crosse under the ordinary conditions and for a specific occasion only, e.g., parish mission, retreat, substitute work, visit, etc. (cf. Can. 137, §§1 and 3)

MARRIAGE

6.

By grant of the diocesan bishop, the vicar forane (dean) can assist at marriages in any parish within his vicariate (deanery) which is vacant or where the pastor is impeded. He also can delegate a priest or deacon to assist at a specific marriage in such a parish. (cf. Can. 1108, §1)

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APPOINTMENT OF PASTORS AND PAROCHIAL VICARS

7.

By universal Church law, the vicar forane (dean) is to give consultation to the diocesan bishop regarding the appointment of pastors and parochial vicars to the parishes within his vicariate (deanery). (cf. Cann. 524 and 547)

INSTALLATION OF PASTORS

8.

By grant of the diocesan bishop, the vicar forane (dean) is delegated for the installation of pastors in his vicariate (deanery). (cf. Can. 527, §2)

9.

By grant of the diocesan bishop, the vicar forane (dean) can dispense from the requirement of formal installation of a pastor. (cf. Can. 527, §2)

DIOCESAN SYNOD

10.

By universal Church law, the vicar forane (dean) is obliged to participate in the diocesan synod as a member. (cf. Can. 463, §1, 7°)

11.

By universal Church law, the vicar forane (dean) is to take care that a priest representative and an alternate from his vicariate (deanery) are chosen for participation as members in the diocesan synod. The selection of the priest representative and alternate is to be made by all who have the care of souls in the vicariate (deanery). (cf. Can. 463, §1, 8°)

COLLEGE OF DEANS

12.

By diocesan Church law, the vicar forane (dean) is to attend the meetings of the College of Deans, as convened by the diocesan bishop. (cf. *Syn IV*, p. 67, §61)

DEANERY PASTORAL COUNCIL

13.

By diocesan Church law, the vicar forane (dean) is president of the deanery pastoral council. (cf. John J. Paul, "Norms for Deanery Pastoral Councils," May 1, 1985, Norm 5, §1; *Syn IV*, p. 67, §62 and pp. 70-72, §§78-86)

DEANERY CLERGY COUNCIL

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14.

By diocesan Church law, the vicar forane (dean) is president of the deanery clergy council and is to prepare and conduct meetings of the deanery clergy council in accord with the norm of diocesan law. (cf. *Syn IV*, p. 67, §62 and pp. 69-70, §§70-77)

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOURSE

15.

By diocesan Church law, the vicar forane (dean) is obliged to participate in the process of administrative recourse, according to the norm of diocesan legislation. (cf. *NARDL*, No. 3, §2, 2^o-3^o)