

Conference of Catholic Bishops hereby decrees that the following norms are in effect for the participation of clerics and members of religious institutes in radio and television programmes which involve Catholic doctrine or morals:

1. To take part regularly in such programmes, clerics and members of religious institutes must have the authorization of their respective superior and of the Ordinary of the place where these programmes originate; the major superiors of religious shall be informed of such commitments on the part of members of their institutes;

2. The Conference of Bishops shall be informed of habitual commitments in the communications apostolate undertaken by clerics, or by religious men and women;

3. Those who take part habitually in the social communications apostolate should be adequately prepared to carry out this ministry;

4. To take part occasionally in such programmes, it is sufficient that:

- a) a cleric be authorized to preach and have the necessary competence;
- b) members of religious institutes have the authorization of their respective superior;

5. To promote better communication, and to assist professionals in this area, diocesan bishops and religious superiors shall draw up lists of persons who could be consulted by the communications media;

6. In instances which are difficult but not urgent, diocesan bishops and major superiors shall refer the matter to the Episcopal Commission for Social Communications; in urgent cases, the Ordinary of the place where the programme originates, or his delegate, shall be consulted;

7. These prescriptions apply also to the various sectors of audiovisual production.

OD no. 593; 28-03-88; *SC* 22 (1988), pp. 469 and 471.

The Gambia, Liberia, and Sierra Leone:

Clerics and members of religious institutes must be qualified in the area of Catholic doctrine or morals which they are discussing.

A national panel is to be approved by each national hierarchy, and only members of this panel may participate in organized programmes.

ITCABIC, 3 (1986), p. 3.

Scotland:

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland decrees that such participation will be

regulated by the Bishops' Conference, exercising its responsibility principally through its Communications Commission which will keep this matter under constant review.

CLSGBI Newsletter, no. 69 (March 1987), p. 29.

United States of America:

Until a study is completed, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops authorizes diocesan bishops to establish guidelines for the participation of clerics and religious in radio and TV programs that deal with questions concerning Catholic teaching and morals for their own dioceses.

Editor's Note: The above entry is of historical significance only. A complementary norm for the United States of America is now in force as of January 15, 2002. See www.nccbuscc.org/norms.

CANON 833

Profession of Faith, 1 March 1989. AAS 81 (1989): 104-106.

The faithful who are called to exercise an office in the name of the Church are required to make the profession of faith according to the formula approved by the Apostolic See.¹ In addition, the obligation of a special oath of fidelity with regard to the particular duties inherent in the office that is to be exercised – previously prescribed solely for bishops – has been extended to the categories named in canon 833, Nos. 5-8. As a result, it has become necessary to provide for the advance preparation of texts suitable for this purpose – updating them with a style and content more in conformity with the teaching of the Second Vatican Council and of documents that followed.

The formula of the profession of faith repeats in its entirety the first part of the text that has been in effect since 1967 and that contains the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed.² The second part has been modified and subdivided into three paragraphs so as to distinguish better the type of truth and the corresponding assent that is sought.

The formula of the oath of fidelity on assuming an office to be exercised in the name of the Church is understood as being complementary to the profession of faith – is enacted for those categories of the faithful listed in canon 833, 5°-8°. It is a new composition; in it provision is made for some variants in paragraphs 4 and

Cf. c. 833.

Cf. AAS 59 (1967), p. 1058.

5 for use by major superiors of institutes of the consecrated life and societies of apostolic life.³

The texts of the new formulas of the profession of faith and of the oath of fidelity will take effect starting March 1, 1989.

Profession of Faith

(Formula to be employed henceforth in cases in which the profession of faith is required by law).

I, (name), with firm faith believe and profess everything that is contained in the symbol of faith: namely:

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and Earth, of all that is seen and unseen. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered, died and was buried. On the third day He rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son He is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. I believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

With firm faith I believe as well everything contained in God's word, written or handed down in tradition and proposed by the Church – whether in solemn judgment or in the ordinary and universal magisterium – as divinely revealed and calling for faith.

I also firmly accept and hold each and every thing that is proposed by that same Church definitively with regard to teaching concerning faith or morals.

What is more, I adhere with religious submission of will and intellect to the teachings which either the Roman Pontiff or the college of bishops enunciate when they exercise the authentic magisterium, even if they proclaim those teachings in an act that is not definitive.

³ Cf. c. 833, 8°.

Oath of Fidelity on Assuming a Church Office

(Formula to be used by the Christian faithful referred to in canon 833, 5°-8°).

I, (name), on assuming the office (name of office) promise that I shall always preserve communion with the Catholic Church whether in the words I speak or in the way I act.

With great care and fidelity I shall carry out the responsibilities by which I am bound in relation both to the universal Church and to the particular Church in which I am called to exercise my service according to the requirements of the law.

In carrying out my charge, which is committed to me in the name of the Church, I shall preserve the deposit of Faith in its entirety, hand it on faithfully and make it shine forth. As a result, whatsoever teachings are contrary I shall shun.

I shall follow and foster the common discipline of the whole Church and shall look after the observance of all ecclesiastical laws, especially those which are contained in the *Code of Canon Law*.

With Christian obedience I shall associate myself with what is expressed by the holy shepherds as authentic doctors and teachers of the faith or established by them as the Church's rulers. And I shall faithfully assist diocesan bishops so that apostolic activity, to be exercised by the mandate and in the name of the Church, is carried out in the communion of the same Church.

May God help me in this way and the holy Gospels of God which I touch with my hands.

(Variations on the fourth and fifth paragraphs of the formula of the oath, to be used by the Christian faithful referred to in canon 833, 8°).

I shall foster the common discipline of the whole Church and urge the observance of all ecclesiastical laws, especially those which are contained in the *Code of Canon Law*.

With Christian obedience I shall associate myself with what is expressed by the holy shepherds as authentic doctors and teachers of the faith or established by them as rulers of the Church. And with diocesan bishops I shall gladly devote my energy so that apostolic activity, to be exercised by the mandate and in the name of the Church, is with provision made for the character and goal of my institute – carried out in the communion of the Church.

CDF, 1 March 1989, Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity, AAS 81 (1989): 104-106; TPS 34 (1989): 169-171; *Origins* 18 (1989): 661, 663.

Rescript *re* Profession of Faith, 19 September 1989. AAS 81 (1989): 104ff.

Rescript given from an audience with His Holiness containing formulas for the Profession of Faith and the Oath of Fidelity made public

With regard to the formulas of "the profession of Faith" and "the Oath of fidelity," to which the January 9, 1989 fascicle of the *Acta Apostolicae Sedis* refers, it has been decided to publish the rescript from the Audience regarding them:

RESCRIPT FROM THE AUDIENCE WITH HIS HOLINESS

In an Audience, which was granted to the within-mentioned Cardinal prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on July 1, 1988, the Holy Father deigned to approve and sanction the new texts of both the formulas of "the Profession of faith" and "the Oath of Fidelity in undertaking an office to be exercised in the name of the church," as well as the norms pertaining to them, which are contained in the explanatory note, and ordered all those things for them to be duly promulgated in the *Acta Apostolicae Sedis*. Versions of those formulas in the vernacular languages, prepared under the aegis of the conferences of bishops, will be able to be employed only after having been granted approbation by this Congregation.

In Cong. for the Doctrine of the Faith tab., n. 106/83; AAS 81 (1989): 104 ff; *Communicationes* 21 (1989): 32-34. CDF, Rescript *re* Profession of Faith, September 19, 1989, AAS 81 (1989): 1169, and *Communicationes* 21 (1989): 113.

BOOK IV

THE SANCTIFYING OFFICE OF THE CHURCH

CANONS 834-1253