



DIOCESE OF LITTLE ROCK

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Vetting Policy for Visiting Clergy, Religious, and Laity

The Bishop of the Diocese of Little Rock is the chief teacher and shepherd for the Catholic Church in Arkansas. Part of that responsibility involves ensuring that visitors from outside our diocese who wish to speak or serve publicly in our Catholic parishes and organizations do so in a manner consistent with Church teaching and in accordance with our safe environment policies. The goal of this vetting process is to ensure two things: (1) fidelity to Church teaching, and (2) that safe environment protocols are followed and that the visitor poses no known risk to our safe environment efforts.

Within the Diocese of Little Rock, the Bishop has delegated to the Chancery Office the responsibility for vetting outside prospective visitors. For visiting clergy, religious, or laity, the vetting process is as follows:

- I. The prospective visitor obtains a recently-issued “Testimonial of Suitability” from his/her superior.
 - a. Note: *it is the responsibility of the inviting parish/organization and the prospective visitor to obtain the recently-issued Testimonial of Suitability.*
 - b. Superiors are as follows: for clergy → Bishop // for religious → Religious Superior // for laity → Pastor

- II. Send to the Chancery Office:
 - a. “Application Form for Visiting Clergy/Religious/Laity.” and
 - b. “Testimonial of Suitability” (unless this has been sent directly from the prospective visitor’s diocese to our Chancery Office)
 - c. Note: these should be sent to the Chancery Office *no later than 30 days prior to the planned event.*

- III. After reviewing both the Application Form and the Testimonial of Suitability, the Chancery Office will then process the Permission/Approval. A letter will be sent to the visitor, and a copy will be sent to the inviting parish/organization.

Thank you for your assistance in helping ensure both the Catholicity and the safety of our Diocesan environments.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dcn. Matthew A. Glover, J.D., J.C.L.
Chancellor for Canonical Affairs