



DIOCESE OF BISMARCK

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Speaker Policy for the Diocese of Bismarck

Rationale

- Canon 386, §2 of the Code of Canon Law requires the Diocesan Bishop to defend the integrity and unity of the faith.
- Speaker approval avoids a difficult situation of having to dis-invite someone.

Basic idea

- Speakers who are being considered to give a presentation on faith and morals on Church property must be approved by the Diocesan Bishop before an invitation is extended.
- Catholic parishes and schools cannot promote or sponsor a speaker unless he or she is approved.

Speakers to which this policy applies

- Any speaker under consideration to give a presentation on matters of faith and morals who does not fall in the exempt category below.

Speakers who are exempt (approval not necessary)

- Cardinals and Bishops in communion with the Holy See.
- Those who hold appointed or paid staff positions in the Diocese of Bismarck in good standing.
- Priests/Deacons of the Diocese of Bismarck in good standing.
- Diocesan School Faculty within the Diocese of Bismarck in good standing.
- University of Mary Faculty in theology or religious studies already having a *mandatum* and who are in good standing.
- Members of Religious Communities in the Diocese of Bismarck who are in good standing.
- Anyone already approved and hence posted upon the website of the Diocese of Bismarck (cf. Approved Speakers List).

Procedure

- Before a firm invitation is extended to the speaker, a request must be submitted to the Office of the Bishop from the inviting party (preliminary contacts, checking speaker availability, etc. are ok).
- Items to include with the request:
 - a completed **Speaker Request Form** from the inviting party, which includes speaker's name and topic(s). It should attest to the speaker's fidelity to the

Magisterium, and the conformity of the topic to the pastoral direction of the Diocese.

- a *curriculum vitae* for the speaker.
- in the case of a lay person, a **Letter of Good Standing** from the speaker's pastor establishing that he/she is a Catholic in good standing.
- in the case of a cleric/religious from outside our diocese, a **Letter of Good Standing** from the speaker's superior/ordinary attesting that the speaker is a cleric/religious in good standing.
- college or university professors not already exempt should provide a *mandatum* from their bishop, if they have one. If not, please indicate that they do not have one.
- if the speaker is not a Catholic, the *curriculum vitae* should be accompanied by **written assurance** that the speaker's presentation will not conflict with Catholic teaching in any way.

Prepared by Office of Canonical Services and approved by Bishop Kagan on August 20th, 2013.
Updated August 4th, 2017.