

## Guidelines for the Use of *Beverage Alcohol*

One of the greater services which parents, priests and religious are able to offer others, especially young people, is our responsible use of *beverage alcohol*. (*Beverage alcohol*, in these **Guidelines**, refers to wine, beer, straight and/or mixed liquors and cordials.) Even when *beverage alcohol* is approved at church-sponsored events, certain individuals should abstain from its use. These include minors, those who have a problem with alcohol usage and those already intoxicated. Adults should be mindful of their Christian responsibility to drink in moderation and to give good example to our youth. Our good example will offer much by way of hope and guidance to those who are in need of direction about the appropriate use of this substance. Parishes, parish organizations and other institutions are to take *positive steps to educate* their members and others regarding the identification, referral and treatment of alcoholism.

The *Catholic Church in the Diocese of Memphis in Tennessee*, called to proclaim the gospel of reconciling love in the midst of our society, offers these **Guidelines** on the use of *beverage alcohol* in events sponsored by parishes, parish organizations and other institutions within the diocese.

1. Parishes, parish organizations and other institutions may use *beverage alcohol* at church-sponsored events. However, its use should never be considered required.
2. In preparing for events they sponsor, parishes, parish organizations and other institutions should make a conscious, deliberate and demonstrable decision as to whether *beverage alcohol* should or should not be made available.
3. If *beverage alcohol* is approved for use at an event, then *non-alcoholic beverages and food must also be made available*.
4. Whenever *beverage alcohol* is used at an event, its use should be a secondary part of the event.
5. *Beverage alcohol* is **not** to be sold or consumed at events directed primarily to and for minors.

Pastors, priests, religious and all in leadership roles are responsible for ensuring that these **Guidelines** are made known and observed. Furthermore, these individuals must be aware of and abide by the state, county and/or city laws governing the sale and/or consumption of *beverage alcohol*.

Pastors are accountable to the bishop of the diocese or his delegate for the promulgation and implementation of these **Guidelines**.

A review of these **Guidelines** will be conducted by the bishop three years after he approves them for use in the diocese.

Recommended by the Presbyteral Council

Catholic Diocese of Memphis

February 10, 1997

+ *Jerry Steib, S.V.D.*  
Approved by The Most Rev. J. Terry Steib, S.V.D., D.D.  
Bishop of Memphis

*February 14, 1997*  
Date

*Robert D. Ponticello*  
Chancellor