



Catholic Diocese of Memphis

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DECREE

Publication of New Particular Law

Since my installation as diocesan bishop, I have striven to assist the Chancery and our parishes in achieving more proper and efficient administration in accordance with the law of the Church and for the good of the faithful of the Diocese. In the course of my tenure, I have recognized the need for updated policies and procedures for many areas of diocesan and parochial administration. With the assistance of various members of the Curial staff and consultation with the Presbyteral Council, I am now ready to begin promulgating new particular law for the Diocese so that all the faithful, especially those who work for the Diocese and its parishes, may know their rights and responsibilities in the proper functioning of this local church.

Today, I decree that a specific page on the diocesan website be designated for the publication of new laws and procedures that are intended for public dissemination. This page will serve as a helpful resource for all who wish to know their rights and responsibilities as indicated in the particular law of this Diocese. As additional laws and procedures are prepared, they will be promulgated by being posted on the new webpage, unless the decree of promulgation specifies otherwise. The first set of revised laws and procedures shall be posted today. Additional laws and procedures will be posted as they are ready.

The term “particular law” refers to laws issued by the diocesan bishop (see canons 7-22; 29) or executive norms and instructions given by the local ordinary (see canon 30-34). Executive norms are intended to determine more precisely the manner in which the law of the universal Church or the Diocese is to be applied (c. 31, §1). Instructions are intended to clarify what is required by the law and/or specify the methods and procedures for observing the law (c. 34, §1).

The decree of promulgation for each policy will also specify the date when the norms become effective. If the decree does not specify an effective date, then the decree becomes effective one month (30 days) after the day of promulgation (c. 8, §2; see also c. 31, §2).

Since it is necessary to regularly review all particular law to make sure that it remains useful and beneficial as circumstances change, an email address will be created where suggestions and concerns about the new laws and procedures can be submitted. The members of the Diocesan Curia shall complete a review of these laws and procedures by June 30, 2027, so that I or my successor may promulgate necessary revisions. More urgent modifications will be promulgated as needed.

+ dei. c. P. Talley

Most Rev. David P. Talley, M.S.W., J.C.D.
Bishop of Memphis in Tennessee

Given at the Chancery in Memphis on the 18th of February 2026

F. James Clark

Very Rev. James M. Clark, J.C.D., Ph.D., J.V.
Chancellor

