

GUEST SPEAKERS FROM OTHER DIOCESES

The Christian faithful share responsibility for the preaching, teaching and sanctifying ministries of the Church, each according to his/her ministerial order in the community of Christ. The faithful have a right, nevertheless, to expect that an individual who undertakes even a temporary role as speaker at an event sponsored by a Catholic entity or by a parish or group associated with the Catholic Diocese of Spokane be a member of the Christian faithful in full communion with the Catholic Church. This is particularly true when the event or presentation is concerned with the fostering of the Catholic Faith, providing Christian formation or offering instruction in the sacred sciences such as Scripture, liturgy, spirituality, Church doctrine, Christian morality or Church history.

In relation to such event or presentation, the Bishop is responsible for protecting and assuring the reputation, integrity and unity of the Catholic Faith. For that reason an individual from outside the Diocese who is invited by a Catholic entity, parish, or group associated with the Diocese for a presentation representing the Catholic faith or moral Tradition of the Church requires the prior approval of the Bishop.

Step One: Before contact is made with a proposed speaker, a preliminary decision is to be sought from the Bishop regarding the speaker's acceptability - petitioned by the ecclesial authority proper to the request – usually the pastor of the place or the head of a program/ministry. The request is to be presented to the Bishop and his staff in a timely manner relative to the anticipated event or presentation.

Step Two: Once preliminary approval is granted, the sponsoring party is to submit a formal written request for approval to the Bishop, accompanied by a testimonial letter from the Ordinary of the anticipated speaker-presenter. When the circumstance is appropriate, the testimonial letter may come from the person's Religious superior or pastor. The letter is to affirm that the speaker is in full communion with the Catholic Church and adheres to its faith and moral Tradition. The request for approval also must be accompanied by a copy of the Diocese of Spokane's *Code of Conduct and Commitment for Church Personnel*, read and signed by the invited speaker.

Step Three: Formal approval must be obtained from the Bishop in written form prior to the finalization of any agreement with the invited speaker and prior to the publication/advertisement of the event or presentation.

[This policy applies to all entities unless other formal ecclesial instruction contravenes. Adaptations to this policy occasioned by a non-Catholic speaker are subject to the approval of the Bishop.]