



Policy on the Incardination of a Cleric from One Diocese into the Archdiocese of Vancouver

A. The Code of Canon Law

Canon 268 §1 states:

“A cleric who has lawfully moved from his own particular Church to another is, by virtue of the law itself, incardinated in that latter Church after five years, if he has declared this intention in writing to both the diocesan Bishop of the host diocese and his own diocesan Bishop, and neither of the two Bishops has indicated opposition in writing within four months of receiving the cleric’s written request.”

B. Jurisprudence

This canon addresses a cleric who moves from his own diocese to another diocese with the intention of incardinating there. If the cleric has written to the Bishop of his former diocese and the Bishop where he has moved, and neither opposes his move in writing, then he is incardinated in the new diocese by the law itself after he has been there for five years. The letter can be written at any time during the five-year period. It is not necessary that the cleric be given a ministerial assignment, only that he legitimately resides in the new diocese for five years.¹

C. Timeline

An application for incardination should not be made until the priest has served for at least three consecutive years in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

D. Requirements

1. An application interview to be conducted by the Archbishop.
2. Autobiography: a detailed history of your life with a detailed explanation of the reasons for applying to the Archdiocese of Vancouver.
3. Transcripts from universities, major seminaries, and post-graduate institutions of higher learning.
4. Letters from all former pastors in the Archdiocese of Vancouver who have supervised the applicant.
5. Certificates not older than six months of Baptism, Confirmation and Ordination.
6. Physical exam: A report from a physician approved by the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

¹ Apostolic Signatura, sentence, June 27, 1978, *Communicationes* 10 [1978] 152-58; CLD 9:52-60.



7. Psychological evaluation to be done by a psychologist appointed by the Archdiocese of Vancouver.
8. Police record check.



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