



CONGREGATIO DE CULTU DIVINO  
ET DISCIPLINA SACRAMENTORUM

Prot. n. 1080/05

Vatican City, 13 July 2005

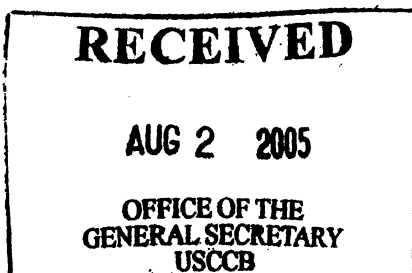
Your Eminence / Your Excellency / Very Reverend Father,

This Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments wishes to inform you that by disposition of the Holy Father, Benedict XVI, the competency for matters related to priestly and diaconal dispensations that has belonged to this Dicastery up until now will be transferred to the Congregation for the Clergy, effective 1 August 2005. Bishops, Ordinaries and Religious Superiors are therefore invited to have recourse to that Dicastery for the presentation of such cases from now on.

On the other hand, those priestly and diaconal cases which have reached this Dicastery prior to the present time will continue to be treated here until their definitive completion.

In addition the Holy Father, by a letter to this Congregation dated 7 July 2005, has directed that as of 1 January 2006, those Deacons who are widowed and who desire to celebrate new weddings with a dispensation from the *impedimentum ordinis* and therefore to remain in the ministry may submit their cases to this Dicastery, which will retain competency in this matter. However, these will be taken into consideration only when the following conditions occur together: *great pastoral usefulness of the deacon's ministry, attestation by the Bishop, and the care of minor children.*

With every prayerful good wish and with sentiments of the greatest esteem, I am



Devotedly yours in Christ,

\* Francis Card. Arinze

Prefect

+ Dominic Lunter  
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To the Presidents of the Conferences of Bishops  
To the Superiors General