



## Procedure – Papal Blessing Requests

There are a couple of ways to request a Papal Blessing for your special occasion, whether it be a wedding, significant anniversary, anniversary of ordination, significant parish anniversary, or significant birthday of an individual. The recommended way is by contacting the Apostolic Nunciature of the United States in Washington DC.

### **Apostolic Nunciature (Washington, DC) Papal Blessing Request**

A request for a Papal Blessing, in the form of a printed certificate, should be addressed to the Most Reverend Carlo Maria Viganò, Apostolic Nuncio, at the address listed below:

**APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20008-3687  
TEL. 202/333-7121 -FAX 202/337-4036**

The request must include:

1. A recommendation from a parish priest of the person(s) to receive the blessing, or from a priest familiar with the person(s), attesting to his/her/their good standing in the Catholic Church. The request should be on the parish letterhead and have the parish seal.
  - a. In the case of a wedding, both parties should be Catholics. (For anniversaries, it is sufficient that one of the members is Catholic. We also request a copy of your church marriage certificate).
  - b. For priests, parishes, associations or organizations, the request should be presented by the Diocesan Bishop.
  - c. For religious, the request should come from their superior.
2. The following information must be clearly typed or written in capital letters:
  - a. the name(s) of the people to receive the blessing
  - b. the occasion to be celebrated (such as weddings, anniversaries of a special nature -25th, 50th, 60th-, special Birthdays -80th, 90th, and so on-religious profession, first communions, confirmations). A general blessing for no specific occasion may also be requested.
  - c. the date of the occasion
  - d. if a wedding, the name of the church and its city and state
  - e. the diocese to which the person(s) to receive the blessing belongs
  - f. the address to which the document is to be mailed
3. An offering of \$25.00 is customary and should be made by check or money order, payable to the Apostolic Nunciature.

All requests should be presented in writing. Please allow a minimum of two to three weeks. Requests by fax should be followed by the original hard copy by mail, indicating that it has already been faxed. **Requests by e-mail are not acceptable.**

## **Office of Papal Charities at the Vatican**

### **By letter or fax**

Requests for Papal Blessings on parchment can be sent to the Elemosineria Apostolica - Office of Papal Charities only by regular post or by fax (but not by e-mail).

The request should include:

- the name, surname and address of the person making the request;
- the name and surname of the person(s) for whom the blessing is being requested;
- the reason or occasion prompting the request;
- the date, the name of the Church and the address are required when the blessing is requested for the celebration of a sacrament, a religious profession or an anniversary;
- the address of where to send the parchment and payment details.

The payment should be made after you receive the Papal blessing. It is possible to make the payment in one of two ways:

- via a bank transfer (the banking coordinates will be sent to you in the same parcel as the parchment)
- or by online credit card payment via the website of the Office of Papal Charities

The account will reflect:

- the cost of the parchment (ranging from 13 to 25 euros according to the model chosen by the office for the specific occasion)
- and the postage costs (outside Italy according to the destination). For normal postage 10-16 euros or with express courier (DHL) 18-30 euros.

The time required for receiving the parchment is approximately one month from the date when the request is received.

### **Circumstances for which parchment papal blessings are granted**

The Apostolic Blessing is granted *for the following occasions*:

1. Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation
2. Marriage
3. Priestly Ordination
4. Religious Profession
5. Secular Consecration
6. Ordinations of Permanent Deacons
7. Marriage Anniversaries (10, 25, 40, 50, 60 years)\*, Priestly Ordination, Religious Profession
8. Birthdays (18, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100)\*
9. Catholic individuals or families (with name and surname of the spouses united in a religious marriage).

*The asterisk (\*) indicates the need for the nihil obstat or approval of ecclesiastical authority. Requests for papal blessings for other occasions will not be accepted.*

*Postal Address:* Elemosineria Apostolica  
Parchment Office  
00120 Vatican City

*Telephone:* (+39) 06.69873279 - (+39) 06.69871100  
(office hours: **8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**  
[UTC+1 : CET - Central European Time])

*Telefax:* (+39) 06.69883132  
(24 hours)

**[Click here to download request form](#)**

*\*If you have any questions or need assistance regarding Papal Blessings, please contact Christine Shields at: [cshields@orlandodiocese.org](mailto:cshields@orlandodiocese.org) or (407) 246-4860.*