



JOSEPH EDWARD STRICKLAND
BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE APOSTOLIC SEE
BISHOP OF TYLER

D E C R E E

**Establishing particular law determining those acts of administration
which, in light of the economic conditions of the diocese,
are considered to be more important**

Whereas the diocesan bishop is to exercise vigilance over the administration of ecclesiastical goods owned by the diocese and parishes (c. 1276, §1), especially in order to avoid abuses (c. 392, §2); and

Whereas the diocesan bishop is competent to determine acts of administration which, in light of economic conditions of the diocese, are considered to be more important (c. 1277); and

Whereas acts of administration which exceed the limits and manner of ordinary administration must be clearly defined;

Therefore, having heard the Finance Council and the College of Consultors, I decree the following:

1. The decree of November 1, 2015, governing acts of extraordinary administration for parishes for acts whose value is more than \$10,000 but less than \$100,000 remains in force as particular law. These acts may be approved administratively by the bishop in accordance with said decree.
2. It is established as particular law that: Administrative acts, at the parish or diocesan levels, which exceed \$100,000 but are less than \$250,000 in value are, in light of the economic conditions of the diocese, established as more important acts of diocesan administration which require, for validity, prior consultation with the College of Consultors and the Finance Council, followed by approval of the bishop (c. 1277).
3. Written requests for permission to carry out such acts of administration are to be sent to the bishop, having been signed by the local pastor after consultation with the parish finance council. Oral requests or requests sent via electronic means will not be accepted.
4. Examples of acts of administration which require the approval of the bishop include but are not limited to:
 - a. Formally requesting funds from the Catholic faithful to launch a capital campaign;
 - b. Construction of new buildings or extensive repairs made to existing structures;
 - c. Purchasing property;
 - d. Acceptance or refusal of major gifts or bequests, or acceptance or refusal of gifts with conditions attached;
 - e. Long-term investments (over two years);
 - f. Long-term leasing or rental of property (greater than five years);
 - g. Acting as a guarantor or surety for the obligation of another public juridic person.

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The following points are to be kept in mind by those involved in the administration of temporal goods:

1. Administrative acts whose value exceeds \$250,000 require the consent of the Finance Council and the College of Consultors, followed by approval of the bishop, in accord with particular law of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in effect since April 5, 2010 (c. 1277).
2. The alienation of property of the diocese whose value lies between the minimum limit of \$250,000 and the maximum of \$3,500,000, as well as the alienation of property of parishes whose value lies between the minimum limit of \$25,000 and the maximum of \$3,500,000 require the consent of the Finance Council and the College of Consultors, followed by the approval of the bishop, in accord with particular law of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in effect since May 10, 2011 (c. 1292, §1).
3. Any alienation that exceeds the maximum limit, in addition, requires the authorization of the Holy See (c. 1292, §2).

If this canonical protocol of receiving advice or consent is not followed (c. 127), the act performed by the bishop or the priest is invalid. The juridic person (diocese or parish) is not bound to answer for it (c. 1281, §3). Rather, the person who performed the act invalidly thus assumes personal liability for it.

This particular law is effective from February 2, 2017, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Tyler, at the Diocesan Curia, under my sign and seal, and the countersign of my Chancellor, on the 20th day of the month of January in the year of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, two thousand and seventeen.

Most Reverend JOSEPH E. STRICKLAND
Bishop of Tyler

Peyton Low
Chancellor

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