



808/2021

24 August 2021

**Modification of Particular Law  
Regarding Mass offerings for bination and trination**

“A priest is not permitted to celebrate the Eucharist more than once a day except in cases where the law permits him to celebrate or concelebrate more than once on the same day. If there is a shortage of priests, the local ordinary can allow priests to celebrate twice a day for a just cause, or if pastoral necessity requires it, even three times on Sundays and holy days of obligation” (canon 905, §§1-2).

“A priest who celebrates several Masses on the same day can apply each to the intention for which the offering was given, but subject to the rule that, except on Christmas, he is to keep the offering for only one Mass and transfer the others to the purposes prescribed by the ordinary, while allowing for some recompense by reason of an extrinsic title. A priest who concelebrates a second Mass on the same day cannot accept an offering for it under any title” (canon 951, §§1-2).

For many decades in the Diocese of Cleveland, particular law has required that the monetary offerings (also known as stipends) for the second or third Mass each day be sent by the priest to the diocesan chancery, to be distributed for priestly formation, under the explanation that the need for bination and trination indicated a shortage of priests in the Diocese. Over the years, this policy has allowed for the formation of many priests for the service of the Diocese of Cleveland. However, although the Diocese of Cleveland continues to suffer from a lack of priests, the need in many other parts of the world is even greater, and many local churches are unable to provide for the adequate support of their clergy. I am increasingly conscious, therefore, that the formation of priests for the Diocese of Cleveland is no longer the only appropriate destination for these funds, and that priests of the Diocese of Cleveland should have the opportunity to provide direct material support for their missionary brothers.

Therefore, policy 901.3.1 in the *Clergy Personnel Handbook – Book I: Priests* (2009) is hereby modified to the following:

**§901.3.1 Policy:** The traditional Mass stipend (\$10.00 per Mass) continues to be offered to each priest. It should be noted that a priest may only accept one Mass stipend per day. Bination and trination stipends are to be forwarded to the Chancery for distribution for priestly formation, or sent to missionary priests individually or via the diocesan office for the Propagation of the Faith. (*cf. c. 951.1*)

This change is to be promulgated via the *Diocesan Memorandum* and comes into effect on September 1, 2021.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Cathedral Square, Cleveland, Ohio, this twenty fourth day of August, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand twenty one.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward C. Malesic". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

The Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, JCL  
Bishop of Cleveland

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "V. Gardiner". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Chancellor