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Regulations for

Catholic Chaplains

in the

United States Army and Navy



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## REGULATIONS FOR CATHOLIC CHAPLAINS IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND NAVY

Besides the Canons of the Code, the Statutes of the Councils of Baltimore and the instructions contained in their Military Faculties, all Chaplains are bound by these special regulations:

No priest will be accepted for a Chaplaincy, unless and until, he presents, in writing, to the Chaplain Bishop, a letter of approval and recommendation, from his Ordinary, or proper ecclesiastical superior. Such other documents as are deemed necessary to estimate his canonical status, his mental and temperamental qualifications, must also be presented.

Since the Chaplain Bishop has no permanent benefices, when Priests cease to be Chaplains, for any reason whatsoever, they must return to their status quo ante. Whenever a Chaplain's Ordinary or ecclesiastical superior, shall request his detachment from the service, he must resign his commission immediately and return to duty in his diocese or religious organization.

If, at any time, the Chaplain Bishop, at whose pleasure Chaplaincies are held, decides and directs that a Chaplain should, for the good of the service, resign his commission, and go back to duty in his diocese or religious organization, he must comply *immediately* and without question.

It will not be necessary for the Chaplain Bishop to give any reason, except "for the good of the service," for his decision in directing a Chaplain to resign. The Chaplain Bishop is the sole and only judge in deciding this matter.

Since Chaplains are mostly at stations remote from the Ordinariate, they are required to keep in contact with the Chaplain Bishop, by regular correspondence. Reports giving the status animarum of their stations, and a monthly account of their religious work and activities, must be sent to the Ordinariate.

Chaplains have cumulative territorial jurisdiction within the limits of their stations and ships, but they are not permitted to perform marriages or baptisms of subjects, in other parishes, without the permission of the local Ordinary or pastor.

Because a Chaplain's jurisdiction over his own subjects is also personal, he must visit them and provide for their spiritual care, even when they live outside the government reservation.

Chaplains are not permitted to assume financial or legal obligations, which so change their status, that they cannot return to their dioceses as freely unencumbered, as when they entered the Diocese Castrensis.

Chaplains are also forbidden to become legal guardians over wards, whether they are relatives or not; nor shall they, under any circumstances, legally adopt any persons, of any age, at any time.

Because they are frequently deprived of the normal companionship of other priests, and because of their unusual mode of life, Chaplains are enjoined, in a special manner, to constantly cultivate a deep love for their daily Mass, their daily Office, daily spiritual reading, and daily recitation of the Rosary. they will be spiritually strengthened and divinely guarded and guided, in their high and holy ministry. Let all Chaplains be ever mindful of the admonition of St. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, Chapter IX, Verse 27—"But I chastise my body and bring it into subjection: lest, perhaps, when I have preached unto others, I myself should become a castaway."

By order of the Chaplain Bishop.

GEORGE J. WARING,

(Seal)
July 1, 1918

Chancellor.

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