



## Guidelines for Visiting Clergy and Religious

All visiting clergy and religious wishing to exercise ministry (including missions and retreats) in the Diocese of Austin must have a *Testimonial of Suitability* on file with the Office of the Vicar General of the Diocese of Austin. The *Testimonial* must be signed by the visiting clergy's bishop or visiting religious' provincial/superior or their delegates. It must also include the seal of the diocese or, if available, religious community or institute.

The *Testimonial of Suitability* must be submitted to the Office of the Vicar General of the Diocese of Austin no later than one week prior to the exercise of ministry by the visiting clergy or religious. The *Testimonial* will be deemed valid for one year from the date of execution but must be renewed thereafter. On this same website are several documents which will aid you in your efforts to comply with this procedure.

Your compliance with this requirement is important to promote the integrity of ministry in the name of Jesus Christ and to foster an environment of safety for the people being served in the Diocese of Austin.

If you have questions regarding this directive, please contact:  
Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia, Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General, at  
512-949-2401 or [vicar-general@austindiocese.org](mailto:vicar-general@austindiocese.org).