

Group Pilgrimages and Events Office
National Shrine of The Divine Mercy

PO Box 951 • Stockbridge, Massachusetts 01262
Pilgrimage Office: (413) 298-1119 • E-mail Pilgrims@Marian.org



March 1, 2023

Diocese of Springfield (MA) Requirement for Letters of Good Standing

Since August 2016, we are **required to receive the following Letters of Good Standing (LGS) for all priests and deacons** who are from outside the Diocese of Springfield, MA, by the Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield, MA, whenever a priest or deacon is visiting The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA.

Please note that the same requirements/format are to be used for Deacons and for Priests who visit The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy.

These Letters of Good Standing are necessary in order for the priests and deacons to perform their clerical duties while they are visiting.

We appreciate your assistance with us complying with the requirements of our Diocese to protect us all and all those who visit the Shrine.

Format and Address of the Letters

The Bishop's Chancery may copy you at the same time, but **both** the Chancery of the Diocese of Springfield **and** we are to receive the letters **directly from the Bishop (or your major Superior, if you are in a religious order)**.

- They may send the letter:
 - As an **email attachment** (For us, please send to: **Shrine@Marian.org**)
 - **Via snail mail** to the address on this letterhead
 - Chanceries within the Province of the Archdiocese of Boston may use the internal system set up within the Province for this purpose.
- **Note:** This letter must be presented on official letterhead from the Bishop's Office or the Vicar of the Clergy with a seal.
- We are **NOT** to accept:
 - Celebret cards
 - Emails unless the email contains an attached document **on official letterhead from the Bishop's Office, the Vicar of the Clergy, or the major Superior's office, with a seal.**

What we Need

Please have the Bishop's Chancery (or your Major Superior, if you are in a religious order) send the letters directly to us at the address or email on this letterhead at least **two weeks – a month in advance** of your trip, but not more than three months in advance.

What is to be included in the letter:

1. The Priest or Deacon's Name
2. The Diocese where he is currently residing
3. His present position and address where he is serving
4. Statements that he:
 - a. Is of good moral character
 - b. Is free of any impediments
 - c. Has participated in an adult training program for the Protection of Children and Young People
 - d. Is a priest or deacon of good-standing
5. The date of his visit to The National Shrine
6. His stated business.

Thank you, so, for your help!

Mary M. Flournoy
Coordinator, Group Pilgrimages & Events
The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy