



St. Michael Catholic Church

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POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR USE OF THE PARISH'S NAME AND MINISTRIES DURING OUT-OF-THE-PARISH CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Church depends on the generous stewardship of parishioners' and volunteers' time and talents in her mission. Cherished and long-valued ministries of the Roman Catholic Church, such as: Religious Education (R.E.), the Altar and Rosary Society, et al. have provided immeasurable benefits to and for God's chosen people for centuries; especially within the United States.

Historically, all of a parish's unified ministries have existed solely for the good and benefit of the faith, catechesis, liturgical and charitable works of the Catholic Church; a lawfully designated and recognized "not-for-profit", religious and charitable entity by the city, state and federal authorities.

A member of our crucial parish ministries therefore, when performing Church-ministry related activities, is a visible representative of the: (1) Universal Roman Catholic Church; and (2) Of their local diocese and parish, and is therefore respectfully reminded and hereby instructed to please refrain from any activity/s, which is or are contrary to the Catholic faith and teachings, and moral practices of the Church.

Of particular note (from our diocese's legal counsel): "A member of the parish's ministry, who volunteers or is otherwise employed in a capacity for another entity (outside the Church), which is categorized as a "for-profit" may not utilize the parish's name or ministry title (e.g., the St. Michael Parish Church's Altar and Rosary Society), because it:

1. Potentially jeopardizes the tax-exempt and religious exclusions status of the parish church and even the entire Diocese of Colorado Springs, and

2. Could expose the parish and/or diocese to needless civil liability and litigation (for any injuries, foodborne illnesses, accidents, etc.), involving this parish ministry member.

NB:

1. This does not however, in any way, preclude an individual parishioner from personally (e.g., acting as a private individual) from choosing to steward their time and talents for a worthwhile community event. However, it cannot be under an implied or actual (directly or indirectly) auspice of being a “member of a parish’s or diocese’s ministry.”

2. In addition, planned activities (e.g., bake/food sales, retreats, fundraisers, etc.) which will utilize the name/identify of the parish church must be coordinated through and approved by the incumbent Pastor or Parochial Administrator in advance of the planned event to avoid unintended consequences. Please refer to #1 and #2 listed above.

Thank you in advance for your time and kind attention to this important matter.

Respectfully

cc: File

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Robert G. Newbury Jr., KHS
Parochial Administrator

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