



## **POLICY NO 38: AMOUNTS FOR WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS**

### **1. *Term Definitions***

*Funeral:* The celebration in the church or approved chapel of Mass or prayers for a deceased person, according to the prescribed Ritual.

*Wedding:* The celebration of a marriage in a church, whether or not it includes the Mass, according to the prescribed Ritual.

### **2. *Intent of the Directive***

To provide for uniform amounts throughout the Archdiocese.

### **3. *Policy***

- a. The uniform amount requested for weddings is \$310.00. This amount is given to the parish to defray operating expenses. The celebrant<sup>1</sup> receives \$60.00 from this amount, whether a Mass is celebrated or not. The celebrant should not solicit more than the recommended amount. If the couple is unable to give the recommended amount, we should not refuse to celebrate the wedding.
- b. In the case of a so-called simple "validation" of a civil marriage already celebrated, the uniform amount shall be \$210.00. This amount is given to the parish to defray operating expenses. The celebrant receives \$60.00 from this amount. The discretion is left to the pastor to waive these amounts if the circumstances warrant it.
- c. It is understood that couples are responsible for the cost of the marriage preparation course. It is acceptable for the parish preparing the couple to charge a reasonable administrative fee even when the marriage is celebrated in another parish.
- d. The uniform amount for funerals is \$260.00. This amount is given to the parish to defray operating expenses. The celebrant receives \$60.00 from this amount, whether a Mass is celebrated or not. Please note that we should not refuse to celebrate a funeral based solely on the lack of parish affiliation.

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<sup>1</sup> In this document, "celebrant" refers to a priest or deacon

- e. The amount for a funeral liturgy in a Funeral Home for a parishioner is the same as in a parish church, namely \$260.00 – with the parish priest or associate receiving a \$60.00 stipend from this amount. Retired or visiting priests, as well as deacons receive the entire amount offered by the Funeral Home.
- f. A commemorative Mass in lieu of a funeral is to be considered as a funeral for purposes of this policy, and, as such, the funeral amount applies.
- g. All other expenses, such as the fee for the organist, the singers, hall rental, travel expenses, etc., shall be incurred by the family or persons concerned.

#### 4. *Exceptions*

Parishes may request, in writing, an exception to this policy from the Archbishop or his delegate.


#### 5. *Effective Date*

The policy of January 1st, 2004 is abrogated, and is replaced by this revised policy, effective July 1, 2013.

Given at Ottawa, at the Metropolitan Curia of the Archdiocese of Ottawa, this eighteenth day of June, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and thirteen.



  
+Terrence Prendergast, S.J.  
Archbishop of Ottawa

  
Fr. Christian Riesbeck, CC. E.V.  
Chancellor