



Glossary of Terms

Acts Related to the Case*	the acts related to the case are further details or documents that the Dicastery for the Clergy may request from the Archbishop
amalgamated/subsumed	when one parish is united to another parish in such a way that the first parish no longer exists and the second parish remains
associate pastor	a parochial vicar, a priest who serves as a co worker with the pastor and pastorally ministers by common counsel and effort with the pastor and under his authority
church	a sacred edifice dedicated for divine worship and to which the faithful have right of entry; the following are also terms commonly used to describe churches: basilica, cathedral, chapel, oratory, shrine, worship site
deanery	a grouping of a certain number of parishes over which is placed a dean who promotes and coordinates common pastoral activity within it
decree	a singular administrative act issued by the diocesan bishop which is required to alter a parish or take other actions in canon law
Dicastery for the Clergy*	The Dicastery for the Clergy is an office of the Roman Curia, which assists the pope in his ministry to the universal Church. The Dicastery for the Clergy deals with all matters relating to priests and deacons of the diocesan clergy, with regard to their persons and pastoral ministry, and everything needed for the fruitful exercise of the latter. In these matters, it provides suitable assistance to the Bishops. The Dicastery also deals with those matters in which the Holy See is competent regarding the general discipline governing diocesan finance councils, presbyteral councils, colleges of consultors, chapters of canons, diocesan pastoral councils, parishes and churches. For a complete profile, click here .
juridic structure of a parish	the faithful, proper pastor, and finance council of a parish, under the authority of the diocesan bishop
just cause	A legally sufficient reason is needed for the diocesan bishop, after consultation with the diocesan presbyteral council, to erect, suppress, or merge a parish.

* Updated 10/30/23

hierarchical recourse to the Dicastery for the Clergy*	Hierarchical recourse is the act of impugning the decision of a church authority before that person's hierarchical superior. In cases involving the alteration of parishes or the assignment of priests, the hierarchical superior of the Archbishop is the Dicastery for the Clergy. Hierarchical recourse may be made against a decree of the Archbishop only after having first requested, in writing, the revocation or emendation of the decree. Canon law imposes strict time limits for requesting the revocation or emendation of decrees, and for making hierarchical recourse (can. 1734 §1, 1737 § 1).
Metropolitan Tribunal*	<p>The Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of St. Louis is a court of the Catholic Church responsible for all matters concerning the application and practice of canon law within the Archdiocese of St. Louis. The Vatican website gives a thorough explanation of the role of Canon Law in the Church:</p> <p>Since the Church is organized as a social and visible structure, it must also have norms: in order that its hierarchical and organic structure be visible; in order that the exercise of the functions divinely entrusted to it, especially that of sacred power and of the administration of the sacraments, may be adequately organized; in order that the mutual relations of the faithful may be regulated according to justice based upon charity, with the rights of individuals guaranteed and well-defined; in order, finally, that common initiatives undertaken to live a Christian life ever more perfectly may be sustained, strengthened and fostered by canonical norms.</p>
merged	a parish that has been subsumed into another parish with the latter parish remaining, or two or more parishes that have been united in such a way that a new parish is established from them
mission	a group of the faithful to whom pastoral care is provided but which is not large enough to be established as a parish
multi-parish pastoring	when two or more parishes are entrusted to one pastor; Mass times may change and staff and programs may consolidate
parish church	in a parish with more than one church, the parish church is the one preferentially used for divine worship
parochial administrator	a priest temporarily entrusted with the pastoral care of a parish under the authority of the diocesan bishop in whose ministry of Christ he has been called to share
pastor	a priest stably entrusted with the pastoral care of a parish under the authority of the diocesan bishop in whose ministry of Christ he has been called to share
personal parish	a parish established to serve a group of the faithful determined by reason of the rite, language, or nationality
recurrent*	The recurrent is the person who petitioned for hierarchical recourse.
rector	a priest to whom is entrusted the care of and celebration of the sacraments in a non-parish church

* Updated 10/30/23

senior priest in residence	a priest who celebrates the sacraments in a church
subsumed/amalgamated	when one parish is united to another parish in such a way that the first parish no longer exists and the second parish remains
suppress	when a personal parish is altered in such a way that it no longer exists; its church remains a sacred edifice open to the faithful
territorial parish	a parish which includes all the Christian faithful of a certain territory
vicariate	a specific part of a diocese entrusted to an episcopal vicar who assists the diocesan bishop in the pastoral governance of that part of the diocese; in the Archdiocese of St. Louis there will be 3 vicariates