

## §4700 PRIESTLY SMOKING IN RESIDENCE

*According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into account the needs of others and the common good.” (CCC, ¶ 2288). Likewise, “[t]he virtue of temperance disposes us to avoid every kind of excess: the abuse of food, alcohol, tobacco, or medicine.” (CCC, ¶ 2290).*

*This policy is not intended to regulate whether a priest chooses to smoke or not. The diocese encourages all its priests to consider their health and the principles stated above when choosing to partake or not partake in tobacco products. Further, this policy is not intended as giving permission or encouraging any priest to smoke; rather, it is focused on the specific situation where a priest chooses to smoke inside a residence owned by the parish or the diocese.*

**4701.1. Policy** The norm of the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois is that a priest who wishes to smoke on property owned by the parish or diocese, shall do so outdoors in a well-ventilated area or area designated for smoking. A priest who wishes to smoke inside a rectory or residence owned by a parish or the diocese shall notify the Vicar for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations (hereinafter “Vicar for Clergy”) to discuss the same to ensure that the smoking will not place an undue burden upon his assignment, cause harm to others, or cause damage to the residence.

**Procedures:**

- a) The decision to smoke in a residence requires that the priest evaluate the effect that it will have on his assignment and his living arrangements. The Vicar for Clergy can help the priest make this evaluation.
- b) A priest may not smoke inside a residence if the residence is shared with another.

**4703.2. Policy** A priest who smokes inside a residence owned by a parish or the diocese shall be responsible for all cleaning and smoke remediation for the residence.

**Procedures:**

- a) The priest is personally, financially, and legally responsible for any damages done by smoking, including stains and/or smells.
- b) Before he moves, a priest who has smoked in the rectory must arrange for the rectory to be cleaned and ready for occupancy for the new priest. This cleaning and repair expense is a personal expense of the priest and should not be paid for by the parish or assignment of the priest.
- c) The priest is expected to know and follow all local and state laws concerning smoking.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g., the Smoke-Free Illinois Act, 410 ILCS 82/et seq.