



Obtaining a papal blessing

What is a papal blessing:

A papal blessing, or Benediction Papalis, is a blessing from the Holy Father to honor important events in the life of a Catholic. Blessings are given in the form of parchments that are hand painted and inscribed with the names of the blessed.

Any baptized Catholic can receive a blessing, but blessings are not bestowed upon non-Catholics, the very young (before they have been baptized) or the dead. Only baptized Catholics can request the blessing, either for themselves or friends and family members.

The blessing is free, but the Church does request a donation for the certificate, which will be donated to a charity for the poor.

How to obtain a papal blessing:

In the Archdiocese of Miami, a request for a papal blessing should be addressed to:

*Father Richard Vigoa
Priest-secretary to Archbishop Thomas Wenski
9401 Biscayne Blvd.
Miami, FL 33138*

Or by email:
priestsecretary@theadom.org

The request must include:

1) A recommendation from a parish priest of the person(s) who will receive the blessing, or from a priest familiar with the person(s), attesting to his/her/their good standing in the Catholic Church. The request should be on the parish letterhead and have the parish seal.

(a) In the case of a wedding, both parties should be Catholics. (For anniversaries, it is sufficient that one of the members is Catholic.)

(b) For priests, parishes, associations or organizations, the request should be presented by the diocesan bishop.

(c) For religious, the request should come from their superior.

2) The following information, clearly typed or written in capital letters:

(a) the name(s) of the people to receive the blessing

(b) the occasion to be celebrated

- For weddings: Provide the full name of the bride (maiden name), the full name of the groom, the date of the wedding, the name of the Catholic church, as well as the city and place where the ceremony will be held.
- For first Communions and confirmations: the full name of the recipient of the sacrament, the name of the church, city and state, and date of the reception.
- For special birthdays/anniversaries: the full names of all parties involved, as well as the date to be commemorated.

(e) the diocese to which the person(s) to receive the blessing belongs

(f) the address to which the document is to be mailed.

A general blessing for no specific occasion may also be requested.

3) An offering of \$55 is customary and should be made by check or money order, payable to the Archdiocese of Miami.

All requests should be presented in writing. Please allow 2 or 3 months for the request to be processed and mailed out.