



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.

Who can request or receive a papal blessing?

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.

How much does a papal blessing cost?

The blessing is free; however, the Church does request a donation for the certificate, all proceeds are applied entirely to the charitable works under the direction of the Office of Papal Charities in the name of the Holy Father, in service to the poor. Those requesting parchments will also be asked to cover the shipping costs.

What occasions will a papal blessing be granted?

- Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation (*only for one person – not for groups*)
- Marriage
- Priestly Ordination
- Religious Profession
- Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate

- Anniversaries of Marriage*, Priestly Ordination, and Religious Profession
 - (10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80 years)
- Birthday
 - (18, 30, 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100-110 years)*

**When an asterisk (*) is given, the person ordering the parchment is asked to make a “declaration of eligibility” (in other words, that the person for whom the Blessing is intended is both Catholic and practicing), expressed simply by a short declaration, agreeing to the necessary conditions.*

Requests for papal blessings for occasions other than those indicated cannot be considered.

How do I request I request a papal blessing?

Blessings can be requested by simply visiting the website for the Office of Papal Charities (under the direction of the Almoner of His Holiness) at www.elemosineria.va and clicking the link for **Papal Blessing Parchments** at the top of the page.