



## VICARIATO DI ROMA

UFFICIO LITURGICO  
Prot. N. 10/09

Rome, May 31<sup>st</sup> 2009  
*Solemnity of Pentecost*

### **Norms for the Concession of Relics kept in the Reliquary of the Diocese of Rome**

The Diocese of Rome keeps with care in its own Reliquary a patrimony of inestimable spiritual value. This *case of holiness* keeps *ab immemorabili* relics that, from the first century until present, attest to the uninterrupted presence in the life of the Church of men and women that have corresponded in an exceptional way to the common vocation to holiness.

Desiring to respect the practice of sharing some of the relics kept therein with the local Churches, as a sign of communion with the Church of Rome, the following norms provide all that is necessary for their concession:

1. The Diocesan Liturgical Office is only able to grant the relics of saints whose entrance into heaven has been attested since the 5th century.
2. The relics will be granted solely for the sake of public veneration (cf. *CIC* can. 834 §2). The request must specify the name of the sacred building, or other place destined for divine worship, where the relics will be kept and exposed for the veneration of the faithful.
3. The relics must be requested directly by the diocesan Bishop (cf. *CIC* can. 134 §3) to whose authority the sacred building, or other place mentioned above, is subject (cf. n.2).
4. The relics are of very small dimensions and are placed in a small reliquary closed with a red thread fixed with sealing wax, impressed with the seal of the Vicariate of Rome.
5. The rite of the dedication of an altar or of a church requires that « the relics be of a size that allows one to understand that it deals with parts of the human body » (cf. *Ordo dedicationis ecclesiae et altaris*, Chap. II & IV, Praenotanda nn. 5 & 11, Typis Polyglottis Vaticanis 1977). For this reason, the abovementioned relics are not suitable to this end.
6. The request must be addressed to the Director of this Liturgical Office of the Vicariate of Rome. *Exceptis excipiendis*, requests that arrive via email or fax will not be accepted.
7. The relics handled by the Reliquary of the Diocese cannot be in any way validly alienated, nor transferred in a definitive way. The selling of relics, absolutely illicit, is criminally sanctioned by the Code of Canon Law (cf. cann. 1190 & 1376).
8. To facilitate the many requests, which arrive from all over the world, no more than three relics will be granted per place.
9. The relics granted are accompanied by the Certified signature from the Cardinal Vicar General, the Vicegerent, or the Auxiliary Bishops and fortified with the dry seal of the Vicariate of Rome and duly registered in this Liturgical Office.

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