



DIOCESE OF GALLUP

503 W. HISTORIC HIGHWAY 66 • SUITE B

P.O. Box 1338 • Gallup, New Mexico 87305 • Telephone (505) 863-4406

Amendment to the 2022 “Decree of Modification of Diocesan Law”

The 2022 “Decree of Modification of Diocesan Law” is to be amended as follows, with the addition of point 6.

Whereas: There is some confusion among the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Gallup regarding their allotted vacation time for the purpose of valid refreshment of body and soul;

Whereas: The current law of the Diocese was established by the Second Synod of Gallup of 1983;

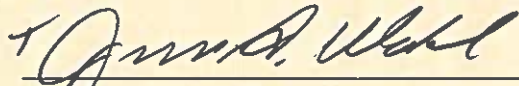
Whereas: Recent issues have arisen regarding vacation time among some of the priests;

Therefore: We, the Most Reverend James S. Wall, Bishop of the Diocese of Gallup, New Mexico, hereby modify the existing diocesan law regarding vacation for the Priests of the Diocese of Gallup:

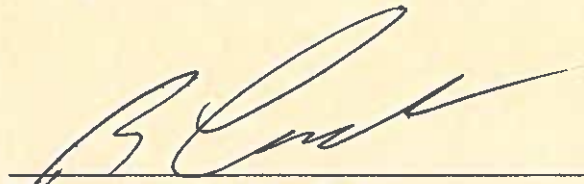
1. Priests of the Diocese, whether extern or incardinated, are allowed four weeks, inclusive of travel, of vacation per year. These may be taken consecutively, or separately throughout the year.
2. The priests are responsible for finding coverage for their Pastoral duties. Setting up a Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest is not the same as finding coverage.
3. Because Sunday is the foundation and kernel of the whole Church year (SC 106), when a priest will be absent for any Sunday Masses, they must, after finding another priest to substitute for them, notify the Chancery.
4. If a priest cannot find a substitute for an absence, the Chancery will try to assist, but the responsibility for ensuring the Pastoral care of the Parish belongs to the priest of the Parish, not the Chancery.
5. If an extraordinary situation arises, and the priest must be absent for more than the allotted time, or very suddenly, the Chancery must be notified immediately, explaining the reasons for the absence, and any arrangement made for the care of the Parish.
6. In recognition of the generosity of missionary priests serving in our diocese and the challenges of long travel, priests serving in the Diocese of Gallup who visit their home and family in overseas countries are allowed an additional six weekdays of vacation per year, to account for the length of time demanded by overseas travel.

These changes are to be noted in the Diocesan files and Financial Policy and communicated to the priests of the Diocese. These modifications take effect immediately.

Given this day at the Diocesan Chancery, Gallup, New Mexico, on the 22nd day of October, in the year of our Lord, 2025.



+James Seán Wall
Bishop of Gallup



Deacon Randolph Copeland
Chancellor

