

What is a Papal Blessing?

The Holy Father offers blessings for Catholics for special occasions such as Baptisms, Confirmations, marriages, birthdays, and anniversaries.

How do I obtain a Papal Blessing?

The following instructions apply to requests for parishioners within the Diocese of Burlington. Note: If the person(s) for whom you are requesting a blessing live outside the Diocese, you will need to contact their Diocese for instructions.

Call the parish secretary at least three months before you need the blessing. The secretary will tell you the specifics for obtaining the letter from the pastor.

A recommendation from a parish priest of the person(s) to whom the blessing be imparted, 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.

- 1) In the case of a wedding, both parties should be Catholics. (For anniversaries, it is sufficient that one of the members is Catholic.)
- 2) The following information must be clearly typed or written:
 - a) The name(s) of the people to receive the blessing
 - b) The occasion to be celebrated (such as weddings, anniversaries of a special nature -25th, 50th, 60th-, special Birthdays -80th, 90th, and so on- religious profession, first communions, confirmations) [A general blessing for no specific occasion may also be requested. In this case, please offer explanation.]
 - c) The date of the occasion
 - d) If a wedding, Baptism, first Communion, Confirmation & Ordination, the name of the church, its city and state
 - e) The diocese to which the person(s) to receive the blessing belongs
 - f) The address to which the blessing is to be mailed

An offering of \$25.00 is customary and should be made by check or money order, payable to "Catholic Diocese of Burlington" in the amount of \$25.00

How long will it take before I receive my Papal Blessing?

Since the letter must be processed at the Chancery and then sent to Rome where the blessings are issued, the whole process will take at least 3-4 weeks and up to about 3 months.