

**Mass Stipends Back
Circular 2006-33**

To: All Parish Priests, Diocesan and Religious

Please be informed that since this October I have lifted the moratorium on the Priests' Mass Stipends that I imposed during our R & R in Puerto Galera, Mindoro, last February. The moratorium coincided with the onset of Standardization last April. This means that starting October 2006 we may again receive daily Mass Stipends from the Masses Fund. A priest who celebrates more than one Mass on a particular day, however, according to Can. 951, is entitled to only one stipend a day. The stipends due to him for those Masses beyond the one stipend per day is to be submitted to the Chancery and in this Diocese, those are intended to build up the *Seminaristicum* to help our poor seminarians in their studies.

The amount of stipend in the Diocese is Php 200 for weekdays and Php 400 for Sundays for Parish Priests and Incardinated Parochial Vicar and Resident and/or Attached Guest Priests. Guest Priests invited to celebrate Mass from outside are given additional for their transportation expenses.

Keeping tract of one's Masses, especially the *bination/trination*, is the responsibility of the individual priest who also has the obligation to remit to the Chancery monthly the stipends for *bination/trination* Masses.

The stipend for the day (not however the *bination/trination*) is Php 1,000 for Parish Priests – whether Diocesan or Religious, and for those Incardinated only on these three (3) occasions of the year:

1. *Aguinaldo* Masses (*Simbang Gabi*) from December 16 to 25.
2. Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday.
3. Patronal Saint's Novena Masses inclusive of the Fiesta Day.

This is being given in consideration of the added load of work on those days, particularly sitting in the confessionals to prepare our faithful to duly celebrate those feasts.

Priests' Stipends are taken from The Masses Fund which are the offerings of the Faithful from requests for Masses for various intentions and may not be used for any other purpose or programs, no matter how laudable or necessary.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 26th day of October, in the Year of Our Lord, 2006.

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested by:

Rev. Fr. Jaime Z. Lara
Chancellor