

Bination and Trination Masses
Circular 2010-07

To: All Priests in the Diocese

The obligation of submitting Bination/Trination Masses is for all priests who celebrate more than one Mass a day, no matter where the Mass is celebrated: in the main church or chapel, outside one's parish or one's own Diocese, in a private home whether legitimate or illegitimately said.

Allow me to take note of some mal-practice in this regard as I notice from your financial reports. Parish Priests or Assistant Priests who are bound by residency in the Parish or Religious Clerics assigned in the Diocese invite outside priests or priests of their own Religious Congregation to celebrate Mass in place of those duly assigned. Those priests then are given extra for transportation or other considerations and the expenses is charged to the Parish instead of out of the pocket of the ones whose duty it is to celebrate the Mass on that day. This is a malpractice.

The same principle holds true for the Parish Priests' obligation of *Pro Populo* Mass on whatever day of the week it is said. If he transfers the obligation to be said by another, the Pastor or Parish Priest pays out of his own pocket the priest who celebrates the Mass for him. It cannot be charged as expenses from the Parish or from the Mass Fund.

If, however, a priest receives more than the fixed amount as stipend for his Bination/Trination, nothing prohibits that he submits only the fixed amount stipulated in the Diocese and keeps the rest as *labor extrinsecus*. The Bishop will be grateful though if the whole stipend is submitted as the same amount will redound to the Clergy Social Security anyway; that is to your own welfare.

Thank you so much for the kind attention.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 12th day of July in the Year of Our Lord, 2010.

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested by:

Rev. Fr. Jerome U. Rosalinda
Chancellor