

Abbreviations and Glossary

Abbreviations

CHA	The Catholic Health Association of the United States
CICLSAL	Congregation of the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life
CMSM	The Conference of Major Superiors of Men's Institutes in the United States
ERDs	<i>Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services</i>
LCWR	Leadership Conference of Women Religious
OCD	<i>Official Catholic Directory</i>
USCCB	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

GLOSSARY

Alienation	The transfer of ownership or significant encumbrance of church property (or temporal goods of the church) to someone else. Property owned by public juridic persons in the church is ecclesiastical goods and can be alienated only with the necessary authorization to protect the patrimony of the public juridic person. Canon Law also requires this authorization for any transaction that could endanger the patrimony of the juridic person.
Allocution	A formal speech or address.
Apostolate	Any activity performed in Christ's name that helps people share the life of grace or improve their temporal well-being (e.g., preaching, teaching, and caring for the sick and the poor).
Apostolic See	See <i>Holy See</i> .
Canon law	See <i>Code of Canon Law</i> .
Canonical Sponsorship	See <i>Sponsorship</i> .
Catechesis	To teach by word of mouth; religious instruction/formation.

Catholic Identity	The theological, ethical, and canonical underpinnings of a Catholic-sponsored organization without which the entity cannot be considered a church-related ministry (a noncanonical term).
Charism	A gift given by God to a person or to a community at a particular place and time in order to build up the community, and in doing so, help realize the Reign of God for a more just and humane world.
Charity Care	Any free or discounted health services provided to person who cannot afford to pay and are not covered by insurance.
Church	The People of God; in the institutional model, it can mean the hierarchy; Latin Catholic Church; Roman Catholic Church.
Church Property	That which the Church acquires in pursuit of its purpose. Also referred to as ecclesiastical goods or temporal goods. In health care this means real estate, land, buildings, and precious objects (valuable paintings/statues).
Code of Canon Law	The universal law of the church. Pope John Paul II promulgated the most recent revision, which became effective November 27, 1983. In 1917 Pope Benedict XV promulgated the previous code.
Collegiality	The method of government that relies on consultation, and sometimes consent, to reach decisions. In Vatican Council II collegiality described the pope's relationship with bishops of the world.
Congregation for the Clergy	One of the tribunals and offices that make up the Roman Curia, the cabinet level divisions of the government of the church; among other competencies, this congregation is responsible for approving alienation requests from individual dioceses.
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith	The administrative and judicial body responsible for safeguarding doctrine on faith and morals throughout the Catholic world. The congregation answers all questions that touch faith and morals or are connected with the faith itself, as well as all that concerns "the privilege of the faith" both in law and in fact.
Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life	The Catholic Church administrative office in Rome that oversees the mission and life in religious institutes, secular institutes and societies of apostolic life. This congregation, among other duties, is responsible for granting permission to alienate church property controlled by religious institutes and public juridic persons (which CICLSAL has established) when the value exceeds a particular amount established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
Decree	A written statement approving of something; appointing someone to something; giving an honor; promulgating something such as a new law.
Dicastery/ Dicasteries	These are departments or offices in Vatican City through which the Roman Pontiff (Pope) usually conducts the business of the universal Church. At this moment in time, the health care pontifical public juridic persons in the United States are accountable to the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life which is a dicastery.

Diocesan Bishop	Term used in the current <i>Code of Canon Law</i> to designate the bishop who governs a particular diocese. The earlier <i>Code of Canon Law</i> used the term “local ordinary” to describe this position.
Diocesan Institute	A type of religious institute which is established by a diocesan bishop.
Diocese	A collegial public juridic person, composed of a portion of the people of God living with a defined geographic area, who are entrusted for their sustenance to the diocesan bishop with the cooperation of the priests working in the diocese.
Ecclesiastical Goods	See <i>church property</i> .
Ecumenical Council	A meeting of bishops led by the pope to renew church life through instruction, admonition, or legislation.
Ecumenism	A movement toward better understanding and even union among various churches and religions.
Eisegesis	An approach to Scripture interpretation where the interpreter tries to “force” the Scripture text to mean something that fits their existing belief or understanding of a particular issue or doctrine; i.e., “private interpretation” of Sacred Scripture.
Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services	Sometimes referred to as the <i>Directives</i> or ERDs. The norms for Catholic health care facilities approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as the national code, subject to the interpretation of the diocesan bishop, for use in his diocese. The purpose of the <i>Directives</i> is to ensure that spiritual service and medical practice of Catholic-sponsored health facilities are in accord with Catholic Church teachings. They are not the sum and substance of the Catholic moral tradition.
Exegesis	Critical study, explanation, interpretation of a text; i.e., a sacred scripture passage.
Hierarchy	The pope, cardinals and bishops in union with the pope; the people responsible for directing and managing church affairs of the Catholic Church.
Holy See	The pope (called the Roman pontiff in the <i>Code of Canon Law</i>) or one of the congregations, tribunals, or offices, collectively known as the Roman Curia, used by him to administer the universal church. Also called the Apostolic See.
Juridic Person	Roughly the equivalent of a civil law corporation, having both rights and obligations. It is established either automatically by canon law or by decree of the competent ecclesiastical authority. It can be either a private juridic person or a public juridic person. A private juridic person’s property is not church property, so ecclesiastical permission is not needed to alienate its property. Its connection to the church lies in an ongoing relationship with the local bishop(s), without whose approval it cannot be considered Catholic. The private juridic person’s purpose is “congruent with the mission of the church and . . . transcends the purpose of the individuals that make [it] up.” A public juridic person’s property is church property, and thus ecclesiastical permission is necessary for significant alienation transactions. The most common examples of public juridic persons established by law are dioceses, religious institutes, and the Holy See. (See <i>Code of Canon Law</i> , cc. 113123.). A common example of public juridic persons established by decree are the ones established for healthcare in the United States.

Laity	Any church member whose ministry lies in living Christian values and practices in secular society or the temporal order; Christians who are not clerics.
Local Ordinary	See <i>diocesan bishop</i> .
Magisterium	The teaching office of the Church which is to preserve, deepen, announce and proclaim the revealed truth. The physical persons considered to be in the magisterium would be the Pope and the College of Bishops.
Ministry	The service of the members of a Christian community to each other and to the world around them performed in the name of Christ. Ministerial responsibility is conferred on Christians at Baptism.
Mission	The fundamental purpose of a person, institution, or community, usually communicated in a mission statement.
Nihil Obstat	“no objection.”
Official Catholic Directory	This directory is sometimes referred to as the Kenedy Directory because it is published in New Jersey by P.J. Kenedy and Sons Publishing Company. If you are listed in this book the IRS automatically gives you tax exemption. This directory is published annually, the entities are listed within a particular diocese/archdiocese and who gets into this directory is controlled by each diocese/archdiocese.
Pastoral Care	The discipline that promotes an individual’s understanding of the relationship between physical health and spiritual wholeness by directing that person through self-discovery and transition and applying sound spiritual and psychological direction.
Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Health Care Workers	This Vatican agency was founded to provide educational support for the sick and those caring for them. They focus on three areas of development: the word, sanctification, and communion.
Preferential Option for the Poor	The consideration of the poor when making important decisions; helping the poor personally and socially.
Private Juridic Person	See <i>juridic person</i> .
Public Juridic Person	See <i>juridic person</i> .
Rescript	Response to a request.
Religious Institute	A collegial public juridic person, properly recognized by the competent ecclesiastical authority, consisting of individual members who live a common life and take temporary, then perpetual, vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in accordance with the institute’s constitutions.

Reserved Powers	In a membership corporation, the powers that the corporate members keep for their own exercise and do not delegate to others.
Roman Pontiff	The name used in the <i>Code of Canon Law</i> to refer to the pope.
Social Justice	The right ordering of social relationships such that individuals fulfill their obligation to participate actively and productively in society, and society fulfills its obligation to ensure the conditions that enable people to participate fully. Racism and vast differences in the distribution of resources among groups are examples of social injustice.
Society of Apostolic Life	A society whose members do not take religious vows but do live a life in common and pursue apostolic purposes. They may follow the evangelical counsels through some bond defined in the society's constitutions that may have the effect of religious vows.
Sponsor	The public juridic person that has founded and sustained an incorporated apostolate and has reserved certain corporate powers in the structure of the incorporated apostolate that enable it to exercise its canonical faith and administrative responsibilities in regard thereto. Sometimes referred to as a "religious sponsor" or canonical sponsorship.
Sponsorship	<p>A noncanonical term used to describe the reservation of canonical control by a church entity that founded or sustains an incorporated apostolate. This retention of control need not be such as to create civil law liability on the part of the institute for corporation acts or omissions, but should be enough for the sponsoring institute to meet its canonical obligations of faith and administration regarding the activities of the incorporated apostolate.</p> <p>Sponsorship might involve the reservation of the following corporate powers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish the corporation's operating philosophy • To amend the corporate charter and bylaws • To appoint or to approve the appointment of the board of trustees • To lease, sell, or encumber corporate real estate in excess of a designated amount • To merge or dissolve the corporation
Stable Patrimony	The immovable property (land and buildings) and fixed capital (capital assets "fixed" or dedicated in a particular purpose to a donor of competent ecclesiastical authority such as a trust fund) of a public juridic person. Property that is part of stable patrimony is subject to the canonical alienation procedures, whereas nonstable property is not. In health care public juridic persons, stable patrimony is real estate, land and buildings.
Statutes	The particular law of an individual public juridic person, e.g., diocesan statutes that are created in a diocesan synod for the governance of a diocese and that are promulgated by the diocesan bishops; the constitutions of a religious institute that are approved by the competent authority, such as a chapter; or statutes of a public juridic person, such as those in health care, approved by competent authority.
Stewardship	Responsible administration by Christians over personal and corporate resources, which are not theirs but belong to God. The practice of stewardship involves ardent attention to the common good and is a biblically based concept.

Subsidiarity	A management practice allowing responsibility to be exercised at the lowest effective level (e.g., allowing departments to determine methods of achieving their goals and allowing pastors to determine hours of worship); requires accountability.
Synod of Bishops	A meeting of selected bishops held about every three years under the direction of the pope to counsel on specific pastoral problems (e.g., family life, social justice, and priestly life).
Temporal Goods	See <i>church property</i> .
Tradition	A body of religious beliefs, practices and rituals; e.g., writings of the Church Fathers, the Eucharistic Liturgy, defined dogmas of the Roman Catholic Church.
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is an assembly of the hierarchy of the United States and U.S. Virgin Islands who jointly exercise certain pastoral functions on behalf of the Christian faithful of the United States.
Vatican Council II	A general meeting of Roman Catholic bishops who met to renew the Catholic Church. The meeting was held from 1963 to 1965 under the leadership and jurisdiction of Popes John XXIII and Paul VI in Vatican City. The teachings of the Second Vatican Council (sometimes called Vatican Council II or Vatican II) are contained in 16 conciliar documents (The Document of Vatican Council II).
Votum	An opinion.
Witness	The adherence through word and deed to the person of Jesus Christ, resulting in a living out of the truth and values identified with him (e.g., witnessing to the value of caring for the sick); influence or impact on others that may result from witnessing to Christ or to the truth and values associated with him.

*Some definitions have been modified from Adam J. Maida and Nicholas P. Cafardi, *Church Property, Church Finances, and Church-related Corporations: A Canon Law Handbook*, Catholic Health Association, St. Louis, 1984.